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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7882 TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1990/ZULQAD 4, 1410 AH 24 PAGES 150 FILLS



Philippine President Corason Aquino answers a reporter's question during her weekly news conference at the presidential palace yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pakistan raising nuclear profile

NEW DELHI, May 28, (Reuters): An Indian defence expert said today Pakistan was raising its nuclear profile to be able to hold out a credible threat to India in case the two countries go to war over Kashmir.

Retired Air Commodore Jasjit Singh was commenting on a London newspaper report which said the US and Soviet governments feared a nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

Singh, head of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, said the report quoting US intelligence sources confirmed that Pakistan was already a nuclear weapons state or very close to being one.

In Islamabad, a Foreign Ministry official denied Pakistan possessed nuclear arms but diplomats said the nuclear option remained one of the greatest fears.

"It scares me to death," said one Islamabad-based European diplomat. "It seems hard to believe that either side would be so stupid but war is not rational."

An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman declined comment. The consensus in Delhi appeared to be that any conflict between India and Pakistan would be unlikely to go nuclear.

"The possibility of use is very low. Pakistan cannot risk it. Its friends will not allow it to happen. Nuclear is a political weapon. Its political value must be exploited. It is useless once it has been used," Singh said.

"The use of nuclear weapons would be an act of such desperate lunacy it is almost inconceivable," a senior Western diplomat said.

"Military preparations on both sides so far are defensive and responsibly so," he added. "I think it's a bit far-fetched."

"We are still several turns of the ratchet away from a war and war is still unlikely," he said.

Kids' cold cure to defeat tear-gas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 28, (Reuters): Palestinians are sniffing a children's cold cure to neutralise the effects of tear-gas.

Capsules of the decongestant Karvol are fast disappearing from pharmacy shelves, chemists report.

"Breathe Karvol to prevent the effects of tear-gas. Keep a capsule in your pocket and use it when necessary," read an advertisement in east Jerusalem's Al Quds Arabic newspaper.

Twenty-two dead in Armenian clashes



An Armenian driver lies in a pool of blood after being fatally wounded during skirmishes. (Reuters wirephoto)

MOSCOW, May 28, (Agencies): Soviet troops killed 20 Armenians and lost two from their own ranks in clashes with militants that turned nationalist celebrations into a day of mourning today, the Armenpress news agency said.

Armenian Communist Party chief Vladimir Morsisyan appeared on television and described yesterday's clashes at Yerevan railway station and near an army base to the south as a "tragic day for Armenia," an Armenpress journalist said.

"Instead of independence day celebrations, we have a day of mourning. I call on people to show restraint," Armenpress quoted Morsisyan as saying.

General Yuri Shatalin, commander of Soviet interior troops, accused Armenian authorities of not doing enough against the militants and called for "resolute measures" to disarm them.

"Our troops do not want this bloodshed, but the terrorists are forcing them into it," he said.

Shatalin, who flew to Yerevan at the weekend, said he had met leaders of armed Armenian groups who refused his request that they surrender their weapons. Tass reported.

This afternoon, more than 100,000 people held a rally to mark the anniversary of the short-lived independent Armenian republic, founded in 1918 and crushed by Russian Bolshevik troops two years later.

King Hussein urges to use oil weapon; we have weapons of total destruction: Saddam

We'll hit hard, Arabs warn US, Israel

Arafat calls for revival of Joint Defence Council; Mubarak tries to calm Arab alarm at Jewish influx

BAGHDAD, May 28, (Agencies): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, relishing his role as Arab champion against Israel and the West, mocked the United States at an Arab summit in Baghdad today.

Defying Washington's advice to restrain his language, he repeated threats to retaliate in kind if Israel launched a chemical

or nuclear attack on any Arab country.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged the Arabs to send the world "a humane and rational message" in a conciliatory speech which contrasted with the Iraqi leader's combative tone.

"If Israel attacks, we will hit back strongly, and if it uses weapons of total destruction against our (Arab) nation, we will use against it the weapons of total destruction which we have. There can be no concessions on liberating Palestine," Saddam told the opening summit session.

Five heads of state have stayed away, including Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has dismissed the gathering as an Iraqi propaganda stunt.

Sniping at Washington's policies, the Iraqi president said an Israeli attack would not be possible without support from US imperialism.

"And I add the word imperialism now... after I read the US State Department's note, which advised us against using the expression," he said.

"We Arabs are the target for these American policies and we must tell America, frankly that it can't continue this policy while claiming friendship with the Arabs," he added.

Senator shot dead

Pakistan toll rises to 152; President blames police

KARACHI, May 28, (Agencies): Marauding gunmen today killed 15 more people including a leading opposition senator in a continuing wave of bloodshed that has gripped Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province, authorities said.

Senator Muhsin Siddiqui was shot and killed while going to a hospital to visit survivors of sniper attacks yesterday.

The 65-year-old legislator's death intensified calls by his Pakistan Muslim League and other opposition parties for the federal government to declare a state of emergency in southern Sindh province, governed by Benazir's Pakistan People's Party.

At least 14 other people were shot and killed and 40 others wounded today in sniper shootings and clashes between rival ethnic groups and security forces deployed throughout Karachi, authorities said.



IRA claims

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility on Monday for killing two Australian tourists in the Netherlands and said the men had been mistaken for British soldiers.

The IRA said in a statement issued to the media in Dublin that it regretted the deaths.

The two men, who had been travelling in a British-registered car, were shot dead by masked men in the southern Dutch town of Roermond on Sunday night.

Picture shows the body of one lying in the back of the car (Reuters wirephoto)

Three released in kidnap case

After questioning

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

KUWAIT, May 28, (UPI): Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela has been hospitalised in a private Johannesburg clinic, apparently suffering a prostate problem, state-run television reported tonight.

The television bulletin said the 71-year-old Mandela, who underwent prostate surgery several years ago, was hospitalised last night.

Govt to sell shares

KUWAIT, May 28, (Kuna): Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi said today the government will soon transfer its shareholdings in 13 closed firms to the private sector as recommended by an economic committee last year.

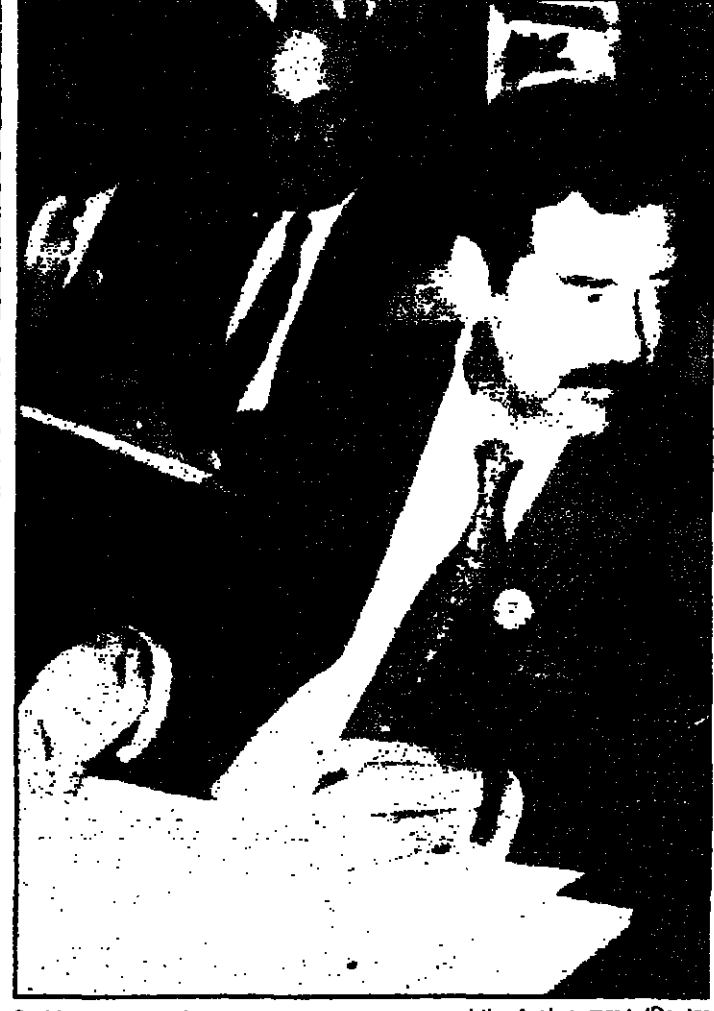
Khorafi, in a statement to Kuna, said the transfer will be implemented within the few coming days by the Public Authority for Investment, the government's investment tool at home.

The plan would be begun with the sale of the government's shareholdings in some closed and unlisted companies so that the sale would not affect trading on the stock market.

Mandela hospitalised

JOHANNESBURG, May 28, (UPI): Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela has been hospitalised in a private Johannesburg clinic, apparently suffering a prostate problem, state-run television reported tonight.

The television bulletin said the 71-year-old Mandela, who underwent prostate surgery several years ago, was hospitalised last night.



Saddam Hussein during the opening ceremony of the Arab summit (Reuters wirephoto)



Mubarak during the opening ceremony of the Arab summit (Reuters wirephoto)

Israel assures Jordan

We won't attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 28, (AP): A senior aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today assured Jordan's King Hussein that Israel is not threatening the Hashemite kingdom.

The assurance followed a speech by Hussein to Arab leaders meeting in Baghdad in which the monarch appealed for military and economic help.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, Shamir's office director, also said Israel was taking seriously threats by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to use "weapons of total destruction" against the Jewish state in response to a similar attack on Iraq.

He added that "Saddam has shown that he is true to his word, that he has not hesitated to use weapons of mass destruction" during the Gulf war.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Ben-Aharon focused on a speech by King Hussein, who appealed to Arab leaders to help Jordan beef up its wavering economy and buttress its military power. Hussein warned that "abandoning Jordan is abandoning Palestine."

In a note to Arab countries before the summit, the State Department voiced concern at Iraq's "irresponsible" language about the use of missiles and chemical weapons.

In March, Britain and the United States accused Iraq of

Bomb blast kills one

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 28, (AP): A pipe bomb exploded today in an outdoor market crowded with holiday shoppers, killing an elderly Israeli and wounding nine, police and hospital officials said. Israeli officials linked the blast to the start of the Arab summit. (Details Page 9)

trying to smuggle US-made nuclear triggers. Saddam said Iraq had no nuclear arms programme but possessed binary chemical weapons and if attacked would "burn half of Israel."

"The confrontation (with any aggressor) must be total, on sea, in the air, on land, in the canals and in the straits," Saddam told the summit.

Mubarak, whose country is the second biggest recipient of US aid after Israel, defended Iraq's right to acquire technology, but otherwise sounded a much less belligerent note.

"The Arab message to the outside world should be humane and rational, in line with the values and concepts of the age," he said, without openly disagreeing with his ally.

Mubarak sought to calm Arab alarm at the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, the main topic of the summit. He said contacts with Washington had led him to expect a series of calculated steps to limit the negative effects of the emigration "in the next few months."

The Arab leaders will write to presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev about the influx, ahead of this week's superpower summit in Washington.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation asked for the summit to organise an effective response to the Soviet Jews, 150,000 of whom are expected to reach Israel this year. Arabs fear many will settle in the occupied territories, destroying Palestinian dreams of a separate state.

Iraq offered to host the meeting after tangle with the West

(Continued on Page 2)

Weather

HOT summer weather with moderate north westerly wind may freshen at times.

State of sea: moderate to rough

High water: 4.15 am, 2.16 pm

Low water: 9.00 am, 10.13 pm

Sunrise: 4.50 am

Sunset: 6.41 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 45°C 113°F

Ahmad: 42°C 108°F

Falaka: 41°C 106°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 26°C 79°F

Ahmad: 30°C 86°F

Falaka: 27°C 81°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 17 per cent

Ahmad: 41 per cent

Falaka: 35 per cent

Gulf oil producers ready to stabilise market

BAGHDAD, May 28, (Reuters): United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba said today that three major Gulf Arab producers were ready to act to prop up falling oil prices.

"We are always ready to do what we see fit to restore stability to the petroleum market," Oteiba told Reuters after a meeting with the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.


He would not say what action the three would take. Their meeting took place on the sidelines of an Arab summit meeting which opened in Baghdad today.

Gulf oil officials said before the summit that Iraq and other Arab oil exporters, hurting from low prices, might use the Baghdad meeting to tackle over-production by some Gulf members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Opec's 13 oil ministers agreed earlier this month to cut output by six per cent to reverse a 25 per cent slide in world oil prices this year.

The sources say effective Opec cuts totalled 700,000 to 900,000 bpd compared with the promised 1.445 million bpd for the May-July period.

(Continued on Page 2)



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U.A.S. Graduation Ceremony

The Universal American School 1990 commencement exercises will be held at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel on Saturday, June 2, 1990 at 8:00 pm, instead of Sabah Al Salem Auditorium at Kuwait University as previously announced.

This is due to unforeseen circumstances.

INTERNATIONAL

Summit

over its drive to develop advanced military industries.

Egypt and other pro-Western Arab countries have been trying to curb some of the anti-American rhetoric which Iraqi radicals inserted at a foreign ministers' meeting last week.

Jordan's King Hussein, in his speech to the summit, said the influx of Jews was a danger to all Arabs. Jordan, as a financially exhausted frontline state, needed urgent help.

"It is crystal clear that Jordan alone...cannot withstand the Israeli threat. We have exhausted all our material resources over and above the burden of our national debt," he said.

King Hussein urged Arabs to use their oil wealth to influence world politics. The Jordanian monarch noted: "Our region contains 65 per cent of the oil reserves in the world, and through the Gulf pass 40 per cent of oil shipments...."

These resources, he said, "if properly utilised... place us



Assad (right) and Khaddafi at Damascus airport before Ghaddafi left for the Arab Summit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Armenia

(Continued from Page 1)

Armenpress described the meeting as sombre and said a planned march had been called off. Funerals were expected to take place tomorrow.

"Military vehicles are still moving through the streets, but they are not in the city centre," an Armenpress journalist said.

President Mikhail Gorbachev's political reforms have unleashed fierce nationalist resentments in the Transcaucasus region, suppressed by decades of Soviet leadership.

Hundreds have died in ethnic clashes but the latest eruption, along with peaceful rebellion in the Baltic and economic crisis in Russia's heartland, poses serious problems for Moscow.

The Armenian Interior Ministry told Reuters by telephone that six armed Armenian militants were killed early yesterday when they opened fire on troops escorting a train into Yerevan station. One soldier died in the attack.

Armenpress and the independent Interfax news agency said 14 people, including a soldier, were killed and dozens injured in a gunfight near the local Soviet army headquarters at Yerevan, south of Yerevan, last evening.

The Armenian National Movement (ANM) said the dead included a 13-year-old girl and that 30 civilians were injured in crossfire.

The ANM said its headquarters also came under fire from troops and a man sleeping in a car outside was killed.

"The car was riddled with bullets. The front of the building is also pitted with the impact of bullets," an ANM spokesman said by telephone. "This is all a provocation to wreck out independence day celebrations."

An earthquake rumbled across northern Armenia last night in the same region that was devastated by the December 1988 quake that killed 25,000 people, the Tass said.

among the vigorous powers within the movement of history.

King Hussein defended Iraq against accusations that it was seeking to produce weapons of mass destruction, but Mubarak suggested, instead, a "nuclear, chemical and biological weapons-free Middle East."

Revive

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat asked Arab leaders to revive a Joint Arab League Defence Council and boycott anyone helping Soviet Jews reach Israel.

He told the Arab summit in Baghdad the United States was providing "flagrant support and scandalous connivance" in Israel's settlement of Jews in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He was apparently referring to the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war, and Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

"I call on the Joint Defence Council to meet immediately, within one month, to confront these challenges and threats and to protect Arab national security," Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official said on Monday the PLO was determined to force a United Nations vote on a proposal to send UN observers to Israeli-occupied territories.

"We want to present to the Security Council a draft resolution calling for UN observers to be followed by UN troops," said Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the political department.

Asked if the threat of a US veto would deter them, Kaddoumi said: "No, we want to show the world that what the Americans really are."

The Jordanian monarch, whose country shares the longest front with Israel, also asked the richer participants for financial aid to buttress Jordan's flagging economy and help sustain the Palestinian intifadeh, or uprising in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said he was puzzled how Arabs "celebrate day and night the intifadeh and not make available sufficient funds for it to continue..."

"Israel is plotting to change Jordan from a stronghold into a crack in the Arab front," he said.

"We need your support now, not tomorrow, not in the future."

The king said Jordan needed support for its armed forces to enable them to defend the Arab frontline against Israel.

"We have reached a point where we cannot continue shouldering this responsibility without your support."

In an impassioned speech, King Hussein said the Baghdad conference, attended by representatives of 19 of the Arab League's 21 members, was the most critical and important Arab summit to date.

"Our enemies do not differentiate between those with empty



Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan attends the opening session of the Arab summit. (Reuters wirephoto)



Sheikh Zayed (right) discusses with his Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi during the opening ceremony of the Arab summit. (Reuters wirephoto)



King Fahd of Saudi Arabia (right) discusses with his Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal during the opening session of the Arab summit. (Reuters wirephoto)

coffers and huge debts on the one hand, and those with enormous surpluses on the other. We are all sitting on a powder keg which will spare nobody if it is set off," he declared.

"We are confronting all the dangers of Jewish immigration to the Arab occupied territories, the malicious and unwarranted campaign which is currently being waged against Iraq and the sinister designs being hatched against Jordan, all as episodes of one series," he said.

King Hussein reiterated his country's solidarity with Iraq in its war of words with Western nations critical of Baghdad's attempts to develop sophisticated military industries.

He aired fears about the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, saying it was a plot to undermine his country.

"In whose place will those immigrants settle? And where will the Palestinian people be pushed?" he asked.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned that the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and settling them in the occupied Arab territories would adversely affect the future of peace and the security and stability of the countries of the region.

Mubarak said he sensed an understanding by Soviet and US Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev and other European leaders to the Arab stance toward the Jewish immigration.

He predicted that the coming months would witness calculated

measures to limit the negative impact of this immigration and to halt the damage it causes to the national Arab security.

He emphasised that the Arabs would reject usurping of lands by Israel and stressed that the Palestinian people have given the evidence throughout history that they are able to confront the challenge with a strong determination.

He also said that the peace the Arabs are calling for is a peace that is based on justice and right and rejects the status quo.

Threats

Speaking about the threats against Iraq, President Mubarak stressed that all Arab countries have voiced support to Iraq in face of these threats.

He also pledged his country's support to Jordan in face of threats made by irresponsible elements which he did not identify, and said any threat against the entity of Jordan or its safety and stability would be firmly dealt with.

As for his initiative which calls for making the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction, Mubarak said if this proposal is implemented it would guarantee the Arab existence in the present and future.

Delayed

The summit was delayed for several hours today while Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi made a last-minute effort to persuade Assad to attend and display a united Arab front against the West.

The summit had been sched-

uled to open in Baghdad's Ornate Conference Centre at 10.30 am (0730 GMT).

Violation

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said the vicious Western campaign against Iraq is a result of the state of disarray in the Arab world.

Ben Ali described the resettlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories as "a flagrant violation of the principle of the Geneva accord."

He added that Israel's refusal to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as rejecting any dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation proves that Israel still insists on mounting tensions in the region.

The Tunisian president stressed that this "complicated" situation does not help in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the international legitimacy but rather will destabilise the region.


He noted that Israel still insists on pursuing the policy of expansion and rejecting all peace initiatives, noting that the "whole world knows that Israel is the party that rejects international legitimacy."

The Amir

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, today called on the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Al Khalifa at his residence.

Sheikh Jaber later in the evening called on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at his staying.

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Tomorrow... Enjoy Our Surprise..

Pakistan

(Continued from Page 1)

and provincial authorities to "examine all the options under the constitution and the law to restore normalcy in Sind," the presidential spokesman said.

Benazir arrived in Karachi this evening on an unscheduled trip and met provincial authorities, government sources said.

"I think Benazir could be in really serious danger over Sind," political commentator Mushahid Hussain said. "It is only the army that can maintain law and order."

"It is a civil war," a native Sindhi called Gulab told reporters in Hyderabad. A Mohajir, Mohammad Ali, described the clashes as "a war of survival."

Gun battles between Sindhis and Mohajirs. Muslim immigrants from India, are common but most of the people killed on Sunday died in clashes between security forces and rioters.

Dozens of bodies were brought into hospitals during the night after being dragged off streets turned red by the blood of the dead and wounded, volunteer Abdul Karim said at the city's Bhitai hospital.

Police blame the current violence on a militant faction of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement.


Critics say the violence has escalated beyond the local government's control.

Opposition politicians in parliament have repeatedly called for the dismissal of the provincial government and declaration of a state of emergency, a move that government has resisted.

A prominent literary figure and a senior official of the Pakistan Information Department, Munir Ahmed Sheikh, died in Karachi today following heart stroke.

The 58-year old official who was director-general of Reference and Research Wing of the federal Information Ministry in Karachi had gone to Karachi for angiography.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

ELIZABETH, New Jersey: A street that runs beside Mickey Spillane's old elementary school now bears the author's name.

One of Spillane's grade school teachers showed up for the dedication ceremony attended by the writer Thursday, along with dozens of young students from the Theodore Roosevelt elementary and middle schools.

"At least it's paved," the 72-year-old Spillane said of Mickey Spillane way, which runs by the schools. "If it wasn't paved, I wouldn't go."

Spillane, who has written more than 40 detective novels featuring the hard-boiled private detective Mike Hammer, said he attended grades three through six at Roosevelt elementary.

The writer's family moved to Elizabeth in 1918, when he was a month old. He lived here until his senior year of high school, he said.

Spillane has been living in Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina, where he is finishing a novel and rebuilding his home. The novel was lost and the house destroyed last fall in hurricane Hugo. (AP)

NEW YORK: A key figure in \$150 million real estate scam whose victims included Eddie Murphy and actress Kirstie Alley has been sentenced to 16 to 48 years in prison.

Louis Rosen of University Heights, Ohio, was sentenced Wednesday on 37 counts, including grand larceny and securities fraud. Prosecutors said he was the comptroller in deals set up by tax-shelter hustler John Peter Galanis, prosecutors said.

District attorney Robert Morgenthau said Rosen made about \$1 million from a variety of schemes, including one involving the sale of limited partnerships in hotels and store space in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Murphy, Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason, and ally, of the television series Cheers, were among 1,300 people drawn into the Atlantic City scheme in 1985, Morgenthau said.

Galanis, from San Diego, earlier pleaded guilty and is serving a sentence of seven to 21 years in prison, along with a 27-year sentence from another case. (AP)

HEMINGFORD GREY, England: Children's author Lucy Boston has died at the age of 97 at her home, a 12th century manor that was the setting and inspiration for her books, her son said Sunday.

Mrs Boston, whose best-known work was *The Children of Green Knowe*, suffered a stroke 12 weeks ago and died Friday evening, said her son Peter Boston, illustrator of most of her books.

Many of her 18 books were translated into Japanese, Swedish, German and Afrikaans, and "The Children of Green Knowe" was adapted into a series for British Broadcasting Corp. television in 1984.

Mrs Boston wrote a series of green Knowe books as well as *The Castle of Yew*, *The Sea Egg*, *Nothing Said*, *The Guardians of The House*, and *The Fossil Snake*. In 1960 she was awarded the Carnegie Medal for children's books.

Mrs Boston bought the manor, one of the oldest inhabited houses in England, in a semi-derelict condition in 1938 and restored it.

HARMONY, California: The price of harmony is \$1.8 million. Not domestic harmony, mind you. Village Harmony or rather, the village of Harmony, population 18 the last time anybody counted, located on the central California coast 180 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Movie stars need not apply to buy this town. Not the kind that are looking for Glitz and glamour anyway. What this town needs is someone interested in keeping the rustic, slow pace of the place and making sure the resident artists are happy.

The community supports about a dozen shops with works by local weavers, potters and glass blowers, and homemade pasta at the old Harmony pasta factory and saloon. (AP)

The great American pyramid, temple for tourists, coming to Tennessee

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, May 28, (AP): The steel skeleton of the great American pyramid is taking shape on the banks of the Mississippi river in this southern US state.

In one respect, the construction of this multimillion-dollar monolith harkens back to the namesake of this Tennessee city — the other Memphis was the ancient capital of Egypt.

But this will be a temple for tourists, not a shrine to the Pharaohs. The 32-story stainless steel structure will combine attractions keyed to the modern and ancient versions of Mem-



Thousands of World War Two veterans attend a commemorative service at Dunkirk May 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Veterans commemorate

Miracle of Dunkirk

DUNKIRK, France, May 28, (AP): Thousands of veterans of the Dunkirk evacuation assembled on a beachfront yesterday to honour comrades killed 50 years ago in one of World War II's most crucial operations.

The veterans, most of them British and many supporting themselves with canes or umbrellas, watched as a royal navy helicopter dropped a wreath of poppies amidst a circle of dozens of the "Little Ships" which helped rescue trapped Allied troops in 1940. They also prayed and sang hymns.

"God Save The Queen" was sung as the former soldiers gathered in ranks under their regimental standards. At least 15,000 people, including relatives and onlookers, were present.

The veterans marched or rode to the beach from a ceremony in the city centre, rebuilt after almost total destruction in the German bombardment that chased the Allied soldiers to the sea.

"Some of us have been here before," Lord Donald Kaberry, president of the Dunkirk Veterans Association, told the assembled throng, which included French, Belgian, Dutch and Australian veterans, as well as the Britons.

"We were here 50 years ago, when we crossed the beaches and went back to the United Kingdom to regroup, fight again and win," said Kaberry, 82. He was an acting major in the British expeditionary force when he was evacuated with 338,000 other Allied troops in what became known as "the miracle of Dunkirk."

Some 6,000 British veterans and their relatives visited this port city in far northern France for weekend celebrations commemorating operation Dynamo, when a ragtag fleet of 800 naval vessels, barges, fishing boats and pleasure craft rallied to

Winston Churchill's call to save the Allied armies from the encircling Wehrmacht.

Seventy-three of the so-called Little Ships, many involved in the operation, braved choppy Channel waters on Thursday in a crossing from Dover to Dunkirk to join the commemorations. Some sprang leaks, but most were able to muster in a circle offshore yesterday.

Ceremonies included speeches by British Transport Secretary Cecil Parkinson and French officials, but the stars of the show were the old soldiers themselves, who eagerly swapped war stories ranging from the indisputably accurate to the real whopper.

"We came back to rejoice and to thank everyone who made our crossing so good and so safe," said Maj. Gen. V.H.J. Carpenter, British chairman of the Dunkirk Veterans Association. "Our thanks know no bounds."

Many of the veterans returned with their wives to point out landmarks and dance the night away to the sounds of Glenn Miller and other big band era giants.

Others, their lives altered by time, brought younger family members.

"I've lost my wife but I've brought along my daughter and my two grandchildren," said Charles Franklin, 71, of Truro, England, hugging his young grandson. "It's important for this young chap to see this."

The commemoration was clearly a thanksgiving rather than a celebration. Nobody forgot that the evacuation, which included 120,000 French and Belgian troops, followed a bitter Allied defeat by the lightning-like strike of Hitler's Panzer divisions through Holland, Belgium and France.

Aussies

2 badly hurt in train game

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 28, (AP): Two men were seriously injured when struck by a train's undercarriage as they tried to lie between the tracks and let the rail cars pass over them, police said.

Police acting superintendent Alan Maclean said yesterday there were indications that the stunt had been tried before successfully, but this particular train's undercarriage was lower than others that used the line.

The driver saw the victims and braked but could not stop in time.

Boston blaze kills 6

Careless smoking caused fire

BOSTON, May 28, (AP): A fire possibly started by a cigarette killed all five members of a young family and a visitor at their home yesterday in the deadliest blaze in Boston in 18 years, officials said.

Firefighters arrived on the scene about three minutes after the fire was reported in the wooden duplex, but flames spread too fast for the occupants to be saved, said fire commissioner Leo Stapleton.

"These were old wooden buildings, about 100 years old, so the fire spread very quickly," he said. "It raced up the stairs into the bedrooms."

Stapleton said he suspected a cigarette left in an overstuffed chair might have sparked the blaze.

"We know one of the male occupants had been smoking earlier in the evening," Stapleton said.

The fire leaped to an adjoining building and crossed an alley to a third building, but no other injuries were reported, Stapleton said.

It was the worst blaze in the city since 1972, when nine firefighters died battling a fire at the Hotel Vendome, Stapleton said.

Construction began last September and the outline of the pyramid, formed by dark steel beams and cables, has already altered the city's skyline.

Basic construction costs will be financed by local governments and recovered through lease payments from the developers.

Attractions in and around the pyramid and at a companion tourist park will cost the developers about \$80 million, according to the latest estimates from Shlenker's staff.

Mounties net tonnes of hashish

Possibly biggest seizure in North America

RAGGED HARBOUR, Canada, May 28, (AP): Mounties netted tonnes of hashish in a sparsely populated bay yesterday in what may be the biggest hashish seizure ever made in North America, officials said.

A suspicious fisherman's tipoff about unusual behaviour led Royal Canadian Mounted Police to Ragged Harbour, along Nova Scotia's south shore.

The smugglers, apparently spooked at being seen, escaped but left the burlap-wrapped bales of hashish in nearby woods and underwater in a large inflatable pontoon raft

they apparently tried to hide by scuttling. Two smaller outboard-powered inflatables boats were also scuttled.

The Mounties had not yet weighed the haul late yesterday but one estimated it weighed 15 to 20 tonnes and another estimated it at 20 to 30 tonnes.

If it is 30 tonnes, it would be worth \$200 million to \$250 million Canadian dollars (\$169 million to \$211 million US) and would be the biggest such haul in North American history, said staff Sgt Jim Carter of the Mounties office in Liverpool.

Police believe the hashish was unloaded from a mother ship offshore.

Sgt Don Rowat of the Yarmouth drug section said Canadian Air Forces planes searched for the ship until dark but did not find it.

The smugglers apparently were bringing the drugs to the beach in the pontoon raft, then intended to reload it into the smaller inflatables for transport across a small cove to a semi-trailer, which the Mounties found empty and without its tractor.

They were caught in the middle of just starting to unload, Carter said.

Ancient beasts' remains found

SUVA, Fiji, May 28, (AP): A group of scuba divers is said to have discovered what could be the remains of four prehistoric creatures in a remote underwater cave off a resort island in the north of Fiji.

Professional diver Kevin Deacon said last night that the find was made last week by members of the Douglas family, who operate the Matagi Island Resort, about 200 kms (135 miles) northeast of the capital, Suva.

Deacon, who has taken pictures of the remains and is overseeing an initial survey of the coral cave, said the animals seem to have been reptiles.

"We have found (the remains of) what appears to be two adults, one adolescent and a juvenile," he said in a telephone interview from Matagi. "They bear no resemblance to any marine creature I know."

He said the adult skulls were about one metre (yard). They looked to be land animals or some amphibious species, he said.

The cave, now part of a reef about 50 metres (yards) underwater, may once have been above sea level.

Douglas said that one of the discoverers, Nigel Douglas, was showing a videotape of the remains to scientists in the United States.



Smooth progress

THE US space agency reported unusually smooth progress on Sunday and predicted good weather for space shuttle Columbia's blastoff to release a powerful observatory that will examine the life cycles of stars and galaxies.

"We're tracking no problems, and we're a couple of hours ahead on some systems," said countdown director Mike Lebach of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "It's not normal, but it's the way we like it."

The shuttle's seven astronauts arrived on Sunday from

their training base in Houston to get ready for Wednesday's scheduled 12:38 am EDT (04:38 GMT) liftoff. The takeoff for the ten-day mission was delayed for two weeks because of an air-conditioning problem.

Stationed in the shuttle's payload bay is the \$148-million Astro observatory, four telescopes capable of detecting light the human eye cannot see.

Above, mission commander Vance Brand kisses wife Beverly while payload specialist Samuel Durrance hugs wife Rebecca. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cruise ship grounded at Delaware Bay

Refloating efforts put off

FORTESCUE, New Jersey May 28, (UPI): The coast guard decided today to wait until high tide to try to refloat a cruise ship stuck on the sandy bottom of Delaware Bay, giving 1,360 passengers and crew an unexpected extension on a trip from the Bahamas.

A coast guard ship was stationed near the M.V. Regency Star to route traffic away from the disabled craft and monitor for any leaks or damage, officials said.

Coast guard officials said there had been no reports the vessel had been taking on water since it

was grounded early yesterday, or that the 642-foot (196-m) vessel was polluting the water.

No injuries were reported among the ship's 1,360 passengers and crew.

But petty officer Darayl Tompkins said officials had called off an attempt to free the craft at high tide around midnight yesterday, opting instead to attempt the procedure around high tide this afternoon.

"They didn't want to do anything in the dark," Tompkins said.

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MADE IN SONY WORLDWIDE EXCELLENCE

Attack on Contras cannot be proved

MANAGUA, May 28, (UPI): An investigative commission led by UN and Organisation of American States observers found no evidence of an alleged Sandinista attack on a group of demobilised Contras, a source close to the investigation said yesterday.

"It seems the commanders of the (Contras) who were negotiating disarmament and demobilisation with the government were fed false information," said the source, who asked not to be identified.

On Friday, Contra leader Oscar Sosa Barro, known as Commander Ruben, broke off renewed demobilisation talks with the government of President Violeta Chamorro. He accused the army of attacking a group of demobilised Contras in the town of Waslala, 160 miles (260 km) north of Managua, killing 17 Contras.

Chamorro responded by ordering an investigation of the incident by an international commission composed of United Nations observers for Central America, representatives of the OAS, the Nicaraguan government, the Army, Contras and envoys from Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo.

"No incident occurred in the area," said Santiago Murray of the OAS, concluding the investigation. "We have not found proof of the existence of any of the deaths alleged by the Contras," he said.

During Saturday's investigation, the government sealed off with heavily armed police the hotel where the rebels were staying during the talks, preventing the Contra leaders from leaving the grounds of the Managua Hotel.

Late Saturday night, upon completion of the investigation into the alleged Waslala incident, the police barrier was removed.

Sosa Barro said Contras were still unwilling to talk and that the disarmament and demobilisation would remain suspended.

"The talks are suspended, as well as the disarmament and demobilisation. We are returning to El Almendro," he said.

El Almendro is a security zone 148 miles (240 km) southwest of Managua.

Col. Manuel Maldonado, a member of the UN commission overseeing the demobilisation of the Contras said, "the investigation is continuing."

However, another source from the investigative commission said, "there is nothing more to investigate. The Contras were deceived and should return to the negotiating table."

Political adviser to the Contras Aristides Sanchez said US Secretary of State James Baker spoke with Chamorro by phone Saturday to inquire about the Contras being held by police in their hotel.

Interior Minister Carlos Hurtado denied the Contras were sequestered or held captive.

"They were only detained for their own security," he said.

Cuba: A Soviet scholar said on Sunday he believed Moscow's aid to Cuba would gradually come to an end and that economic ties between the two countries would be put on a commercial basis.

The Soviet Union now spends an estimated \$4 billion a year to support the Cuban economy. The figure excludes arms aid. (Reuters)

Guatemala: The mediator in talks starting in Madrid today between Guatemalan guerrillas and political leaders said he was optimistic on progress towards ending a civil war which has killed more than 100,000 people in almost 30 years.

"We are taking some important steps on the road to a solution," the archbishop of Guatemala, Rodolfo Quirós, told reporters on arrival in the Spanish capital. (Reuters)

Dominican Republic: Dominican Liberation Party presidential candidate Juan Bosch said Sunday he deplores the absence of former US President Jimmy Carter in the recount of May 16 election tally sheets.

The Central Electoral Council on Monday begins a review of the tally sheets prepared at each polling station.

Premier Mulroney at impasse on Quebec crisis

OTTAWA, May 28, (Reuters): Prime Minister Brian Mulroney failed to move the deadline for a referendum on Quebec's status as a province after a marathon meeting yesterday to solve Canada's constitutional crisis.

In one of the darkest hours for the century-old Canadian confederation, Mulroney has held individual meetings with the 10 provincial premiers this weekend to break an impasse over how to amend the constitution before the June 23 deadline for passing the Meech Lake accord.

Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Manitoba are refusing to pass the accord, which would bring French-speaking Quebec into the 1982 constitution.

The agreement guarantees Quebec the right to protest its status as "a distinct society." The province has said it would consider secession if the deal were not ratified.

"Obviously we have serious problems, we have some different perceptions of things," Mulroney told reporters yesterday after the four-hour meeting with Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells.

Wells, whose province rescinded approval of the constitutional accord, said he was glad his positions were now being listened to. But, without giving details, he said major differences remain.

"I have to be honest enough to say the differences

are substantial and serious, and resolution will not be easy," Wells said.

Earlier yesterday, Mulroney met with New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna for more than two hours, and emerged much more optimistic.

"I know these are difficult times, but I come away from this meeting with some encouragement for what we might be able to do together," Mulroney told reporters.

Mulroney has summoned the provincial premiers separately to his mansion on the Ottawa river to try to find a basis of agreement before holding a meeting

with all the leaders.

The crisis has overshadowed upcoming talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev who visits Canada this week before his Washington summit with President George Bush.

The conservative prime minister is trying to salvage the deal he forged with the provinces in 1987, which is designed to make Quebec a willing partner in the constitution it refused to sign when it was brought back from Britain in 1982.

Quebec backs the Meech Lake accord — named for the Quebec site where it was signed — because it will give it powers to protect its French heritage.



Mulroney



Gaviria wins

A child holds up an electoral poster for Colombian Liberal Party presidential candidate Cesar Gaviria, who won the election. (Reuters wirephoto)

Racial attacks upset Swedes

Vow to counterattack

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 28, (AP): A challenge to Sweden's liberal immigration policies was stepped up this weekend in a spate of bombings and arson attacks on refugee housing.

Five refugee centres were attacked in less than one week. Yesterday, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson vowed to go on a counterattack against the "criminal, cowardly scum" perpetrating the assault.

Eleven people were taken to hospital after a smoke grenade was thrown into a refugee home in Motala 150 miles (250 km) south of Stockholm early Saturday.

Hours later in Laholm further south, 15 barracks under preparation for refugees were burnt down to the ground.

On Sunday, assailants splashed gasoline on refugee barracks outside Vasteras, 60 miles (100 km) west of Stockholm, but the gas failed to ignite.

Anti-immigration slogans were smeared in several of the incidents, including "Keep Sweden Swedish," the watchword of the small right wing extremist group BSS.

No arrests have been made. Immigration authorities set up night watches at centres around the country where they said 30,000 people are waiting for replies to asylum applications.

The violence started earlier this month, coinciding with a rash of anti-Semitic actions in Europe beginning with desecration of Jewish graveyards in France.

But anti-immigrant sentiment has been gathering steam for several months, as a flood of refugee applicants has filled Swedish facilities to overflowing. "I do not think this is organised, or reflects public opinion," said Motala police chief Ake Axelsson. "One attack has inspired another," he said in a telephone interview.

The attacks have upset Swedes, who are still unaccustomed to political violence or open expressions of racism.

"The fires are the plain language of hate," said the Vestmanlands Lant Tidning, a liberal regional daily. "The anonymous anti-immigration feeling and its tail of violence is threatening fundamental values of our civilisation."

Blast rips post office

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, May 28, (AP): A bomb believed planted by Basque separatists exploded in a post office in this northern city early today causing slight damage but no injuries, a police spokesman said.

The explosion occurred at 1.15 am (2315 GMT), about 10 minutes after an anonymous caller to the local travellers aid bureau announced the bomb was set to go off, said the spokesman, who was not identified in keeping

with custom. No group immediately claimed responsibility, but the spokesman said police believed the blast was the work of the Basque separatist organisation ETA.

Police bomb squad officers searched the vicinity for other bombs but found none, he said.

ETA seeks independence from Spain for the three-province northern Basque region.

Colombians elect Gaviria

'No concessions to narco-terrorism'

BOGOTA, May 28, (Agencies): President-elect Cesar Gaviria pledged he would make no concessions in the government's war against the powerful cocaine cartels, but directed a message at the United States saying that the craving for the drug must be overcome.

The 43-year-old economist and Liberal Party candidate who swept to a convincing victory in Sunday's election, said failure to curb drug use could dampen Colombians' will to battle the cocaine czars.

Gaviria, who won 47 per cent of the vote in an election held under threats of bombing by the violent Medellin cartel, supports the current

government policy of extraditing drug-trafficking suspects wanted in the United States. Washington views the extradition policy as critical to its anti-drug effort.

The policy, a central part of Colombia's anti-drug campaign, has had its price.

Sunday's vote culminated a bloody campaign that saw three presidential candidates assassinated, acts blamed on the Medellin cartel of cocaine traffickers.

With at least 85 per cent of the vote counted, Gaviria had 2.4 million votes, or 47 per cent, according to official figures. He was followed by three-time presidential election loser Alvaro Gomez of the National Salvation Movement with 1.2 million, or 24 per cent.

Two other candidates, former M-19 guerrilla leader Antonio Navarro and Social Conservative Rodrigo Lloreda, fighting for third place. Navarro had 12.7 per cent or 674,829 votes, while Lloreda had 636,709, or 12 per cent.

Gaviria is scheduled to begin a four-year term Aug 7, replacing Liberal Party President Virgilio Barco, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a second successive term.

Killings

Officials reported 10 policemen and two other people were killed in a guerrilla dynamite attack on two vehicles carrying ballots in a rural area of the state of Huila near the town of Baraya, 125 miles (200 km) southwest of Bogota.

Also, eight officers and two other people were wounded in another guerrilla attack near Vegalarza in the same area, local officials said.

In a victory speech at a downtown Bogota hotel shortly after Gomez conceded, Gaviria said there would be "no concessions to narco-terrorism."

But Gaviria also warned that Colombia's stamina to continue their bloody and costly war could wane if cocaine-consuming nations fail to curb their appetite for the drug. The United States is by far the world's largest cocaine-consuming nation.

Hardline

"I want to take this opportunity to address the international community and tell it that Colombia is paying a high cost with the lives of its best men, of its magistrates, of its judges," Gaviria said.

"We will crush the narco-terrorism but certainly narcotics trafficking is a multilateral problem and the industrialised countries are doing little to confront the consumption of the drug. If they do not do it, it will be more difficult each time for the Colombian people to understand that their sacrifice is not rewarded and could be in vain."

With Gaviria, voters chose the candidate who took the strongest stand against the cocaine cartels who have penetrated most Colombian institutions and emasculated its justice system. He put the cartels on notice that the vote was against them.

"All of those who have wanted to threaten our democracy, listen to us," Gaviria said, "the people have spoken today with courage and clarity."

Gaviria won promising a renovation of the nation's politics, government institutions and constitution to better confront the nation's problems. He also praised Colombians for turning out to vote.

"The most difficult and troubled political campaign of all of (the nation's) history has come to an end. Never like today were its values at risk, its democracy, its freedom. Never in this time have the violent ones of all kinds tried to destabilise our institutions."

Official returns also showed overwhelming approval for the other ballot measure, a call for the National Assembly to reform the constitution.

The measure was winning with 89 per cent of the vote to 3.9 per cent against. The rest of the votes were apparently left blank.



Gaviria raises his arms in a sign of victory May 27 as his daughter Maria Pas hangs on to his arm. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gaviria defeats rivals

Pledge of toughness

BOGOTA, May 28, (Reuters): Cesar Gaviria, who yesterday won Colombia's presidential election, pledges an uncompromising stance against violence whether the perpetrators be drug barons, leftist guerrillas or rightwingers.

Confident and articulate, Gaviria, 43, belongs to the ruling Liberal Party. But he is seen as something of a change from the statesmen who have ruled Colombia for decades.

Gaviria, an economist who served as finance and later interior minister in President Virgilio Barco's government, won a sweeping victory over rivals who were seen as more conciliatory towards Colombia's drug barons.

He entered the presidential race after Luis Carlos Galan, original favourite for the Liberal Party's presidential nomination, was shot dead at a political rally in August last year by a gunman believed in the pay of drug traffickers.

Barco responded by launching Colombia's toughest crackdown on the powerful drug barons. The drug traffickers then declared war on the state, killing hundreds in a bloody campaign of bombings and assassinations.

Gaviria has pledged to use the armed forces, justice system, social policies and institutional reform against violence of all kinds, including drug barons.

"It is necessary to impose the command of our laws on drug terrorists, (rightwing) paramilitaries, assassins and common crim-

inals," he recently said. His strategy would also be aimed at leftwing guerrillas.

Three presidential candidates have been shot dead in Colombia in nine months. Gaviria has received death threats, and his security measures include cutting public appearances to a minimum and not going anywhere without bodyguards.

On Monday, one of his close political allies, Senator Federico Estrada Velez, was assassinated in the city of Medellin, the base of the world's largest cocaine cartel.

Gaviria says there can be no concessions to terrorism, he will not negotiate with the drug barons and will accept their surrender only if the government sets the terms.

He says industrialised countries must take stronger action to cut drug consumption.

On the controversial issue of extraditing drug suspects to the United States to stand trial, Gaviria says extradition cannot be the government's only weapon against drug barons.

He said Colombia's justice system, which has proven incapable of effectively dealing with drug traffickers, must be overhauled with secure prisons and protection of judges and magistrates, scores of whom have been murdered.

Gaviria, born in the city of Pereira, 160 km (100 miles) west of Bogota, presents himself as a man with a common touch.

Explosions rock central Athens

ATHENS, May 28, (Reuters): Three bomb blasts rocked central Athens early today, slightly injuring a woman passerby and wrecking several cars, police said.

It was the third bomb attack in Athens in as many weeks. The time-bombs were placed under cars near the Hilton Hotel and exploded simultaneously after midnight. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The bombs destroyed three cars, damaged several others and blew out windows in nearby shops and apartment buildings.

Greece ex-minister faces fraud trial

Illegal sale of maize to EEC

ATHENS, May 28, (AP): Former Deputy Finance Minister Nikos Athanassopoulos went on trial today charged with allegedly covering up the illegal sale of maize to the European Economic Community in 1986.

Athanassopoulos, a member of former Premier Andreas Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) cabinet is accused of instigating fraud that harmed the interests of Greece and the EEC, and of complicity in the forgery of certificates of origin.

Athanassopoulos is the first socialist minister to stand trial since Papandreu's government lost last June's general election amid allegations of widespread involvement in financial and political scandals.

He faces possible prison sen-

tences of 10 years to life if convicted of ordering a coverup of the illegal sale of Yugoslav maize to the EEC described as Greek.

Athanassopoulos, 67, has denied that his actions were illegal saying the cover-up was the result of a decision taken with other cabinet members to protect the country's interests.

Twelve civil servants including the former chairman of the state-owned Iteco Commodities Company Soulis Apostolopoulos, face similar charges in connection with the sale of 9,000 tonnes of Yugoslav maize in 1986.

The maize was documented as Greek to avoid trade levies imposed on non-EEC agricultural products and to draw subsidies, the list of charges said.

Last September, the European court fined Greece \$3.8 million for the scam.

Collor uses own high-profile lifestyle to set examples for Brazilians

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, May 28, (AP): One recent Sunday morning, President Fernando Collor de Mello climbed into the co-pilot's seat of an F-5B fighter plane and zoomed off for an hour of aerial acrobatics with a Brazilian Air Force ace.

At one point, Collor pulled out a camera and snapped his own picture, in a scene worthy of the movie "Top Gun." The next day, the photo was on page 1 of newspapers across the country.

The stunt was typical of Collor, whose

vigorous, media-conscious style has charmed many Brazilians and irritated others since his December election.

Collor says he simply loves sports. "I've always had a passion for sports," he recently wrote in a signed article for *Veja*, Brazil's largest newsweekly magazine. "Today, I'm in a position where I have to set an example."

At 40, Collor is Brazil's youngest president and the first to be elected by popular ballot since 1960. He arrived like a

whirlwind in the placid inland capital of Brasilia, governed for the past 25 years by stern generals and gray bureaucrats.

On successive weekends, the country has watched its leader soar through the air in an ultralight craft and race along back roads on a black 1000cc Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle. He has zipped over waters on jet-ski and glided beneath them in a submarine. He has bicycled, kayaked, jogged, swum and practiced karate, soccer and volleyball.

US President George Bush, in a note to a former ambassador published in newspapers here, called the Brazilian leader "Indiana Collor," in a reference to the intrepid movie hero Indiana Jones.

When Collor recently announced plans to go skydiving, even his mother thought it was too much.

"Everyone, please, write him letters, ask him to stop," Mrs Leda Collor de Mello said in an interview on national government radio. "I'm as worried as you are."

INTERNATIONAL

Militant Sikhs kill 16 in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, May 28, (UPI): Sikh extremists killed 16 people today, including 13 migrant road workers, in a series of attacks in Punjab.

The incidents came amid a new cycle of violence in northern Punjab state, where at least 32 people have been killed in the past three days in separatist attacks and clashes between extremists and security forces.

Authorities said the worst incident of the day occurred at 2 am near Zira village, about 125 miles (200 km) northwest of Chandigarh, when gunmen dressed as police officers and carrying AK-47 rifles routed the migrant workers, who were sleeping near the highway.

Police said the gunmen forced the workers, all Hindus from the state of Bihar in eastern India, to stand in two separate lines and chant "long live Khalistan," a reference to the independent state some Sikhs hope to create in Punjab.

The gunmen then opened fire on the two groups, killing 13 men, police said. The incident, in the Ferozpur district along the frontier with Pakistan, was witnessed by four other labourers who escaped, police said.

Authorities said two Sikh extremist groups, the Khalistan Liberation Force and the Khalistan Commando Force, jointly claimed responsibility for the killings.

Extremists also gunned down three other people in separate incidents around the state, the PTI news agency reported.

The news agency also quoted police as saying that a bomb exploded at a bus stand in Ludhiana, 70 miles (110 km) northwest of Chandigarh. No injuries were reported, the Press Trust said.

Government officials in Punjab claimed that today's killings were part of a Pakistani conspiracy to inflame tension among India's religious groups and destabilise the border area between the two countries. They offered no evidence to support the claim.

Lanka seeks Islamic help

COLOMBO, May 28, (Kuna): A resolution urging all Islamic and Arab nations to support the Sri Lankan government and people for taking the courageous decision to sever ties with Israel was adopted at the concluding sessions this weekend by the third international Islamic Seminar for South-East Asia held in Colombo.

The World Islamic Call Society, which organised the seminar, decided on back-up action to make the resolution a reality.

The secretary-general of the society, Doctor Mohamed Al Sharif said his organisation will urge all Muslim governments to increase financial aid and assistance to Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat has expressed his sincere appreciation of the bold attitude adopted by Sri Lanka in closing down the Israeli interests section.

Brandt fears Indo-Pak war

'The threat is real,' says ex-German chancellor

NEW DELHI, May 28, (Reuters): Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, who has offered to help India and Pakistan settle their Kashmir dispute, said today he feared the two countries might go to war.

"The threat of war is real," Brandt said after delivering a lecture in New Delhi on the development of solar energy.

Brandt made his offer in Islamabad yesterday. A Muslim secessionist uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir has severely strained relations between the two countries since mid-January.

Brandt declined immediate comment on a

London newspaper report that India and Pakistan were preparing nuclear weapons in case of war.

The Sunday Times reported that the US and Soviet governments feared a nuclear war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir after intelligence reports that the two countries were readying atomic arsenals.

Brandt told an Islamabad news conference before leaving for Delhi yesterday that he was reluctant to talk of formal mediation in the Kashmir dispute but offered his help as chairman of the Socialist International.

"I will listen to those responsible in Delhi as

I have listened to the leading political figures in this country. What may come out of it nobody knows," he said.

India has said it will not accept third-party mediation over its handling of the Kashmir uprising in which at least 550 people have died since January.

Brandt was followed into Islamabad by US Congressman Stephen Solarz, a New York Democrat, who is also trying to defuse the Kashmir row.

The Socialist International's council called at a meeting in Cairo last week for the two sides to pull their troops back to peacetime positions and open a dialogue.



Nose job for jet

Workers try to free a Thai International Airways Airbus 300 from being ditched in mud at the Manila International Airport, May 28.

The jet on a flight from Bangkok swerved off the runway after breaking its nose gear upon landing. None of the 273 passengers and 13 crew was hurt and flight operations remained suspended. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cory clears Ramos

Philippine Muslims

Peace talks offer

MANILA, May 28, (UPI): President Corazon Aquino shrugged off a "pure intrigue" today claims by Muslims that recent violent incidents were part of a US-backed plot to stage a coup attempt to be led by her defence secretary.

Aquino told a news conference she has "full confidence" in Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos. "Certainly his administration for the past four years, where he has very clearly defended and protected the constitution and our people, will give me no reason to doubt his motives," Aquino said.

New reports today said the clandestine Young Officers Union (YOU) had charged Ramos and US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney with plotting to stage a coup attempt. "Well, I will dismiss that as pure intrigue," Aquino said.

Ramos, appearing at a senate committee meeting on defence matters, also said the reports were "pure propaganda, completely unfounded" and "designed to create instability among our people."

The YOU joined the Dec 1-9 coup attempt in which 119 people were killed and more than 500 were wounded. The sixth uprising was crushed after US jets provided air cover to loyalist forces.

News reports quoting a YOU spokesman who used the assumed name of Capt Carlos Magalang said Ramos discussed the coup attempt against Aquino during his visit to Washington last year.

The reports said the plan was "polished" in Manila during the visit by Cheney to Manila in February. Aquino refused to see Cheney during his visit, saying she did not like insinuations in news reports that US visitors had told her to "put her house in order."

US embassy spokesperson Victoria Middleton said she did not think the report was "worth commenting on."

Military officials meanwhile fielded a crack force of 3,000 constables in the capital to step up security measures following a rash of ambushes and grenade attacks in which at least 10 people were killed last week.

The incidents were either blamed on mutinous soldiers or communist guerrillas. Constabulary spokesman Lt Col Cris Maralit said the constables will set up checkpoints, conduct round-the-clock patrols on foot and by car.

The military said today 48 officers and soldiers and 17 civilians have been killed in incidents in the capital over the past five months involving the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The 19,000-strong NPA has been battling the Manila government for 21 years.

Kashmir struggle will go on: JKLF

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, May 28, (Reuters): The leader of Kashmir's main militant group vowed yesterday the fight against Indian rule would go on and said that changing governments would not calm unrest in the state.

"We will continue our war until Kashmir's freedom," Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Amanullah Khan said in a speech in Rawalpindi, near Islamabad.

He said the appointment of a new governor in India's Jammu and Kashmir state last week replaced "one beast ... by another."

"That makes no difference for us. It will make no difference even if they bring (Mahatma) Gandhi and (Pandit) Jawaharlal) Nehru to Kashmir," he said, referring to India's revered independence leaders.

JKLF is spearheading a violent secessionist campaign by Muslims in Kashmir valley where at least 550 people have been killed in clashes between protesters and troops this year.

Former Indian intelligence chief Girish Saxena took over as governor on Saturday saying there would be no change in policy to combat the militants.

Saxena replaced Jagmohan, architect of the tough policy towards the uprising.

Hundreds of JKLF activists chanted "freedom, freedom" as Amanullah arrived at Islamabad airport from a support-seeking trip to the United States and Europe where India had sought his extradition.

Amanullah also denounced Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for a statement last week in which she rejected the JKLF's idea of an independent Kashmir, saying that Kashmiris wanted union with Pakistan.

"So far as we are concerned, whether Benazir Bhutto wants (it) or not ... whether (former Indian prime minister) Rajiv Gandhi wants (it) or not, Kashmir will be independent," he said.

"Fickleness is no substitute for independence," Amanullah said.

He said Pakistan's former Prime Minister Ali Jinnah had said in 1947 before the Indian partition that the subcontinent's princely states would be free to accede to India or Pakistan or become independent.

"Benazir has insulted the Quaid-i-Azam (Jinnah)," he said.

Fiji

Farmers warned against striking

SUVA, Fiji, May 28, (AP): Fiji's army commander issued a strong warning today that ethnic Indian sugar farmers should abandon any plans to disrupt the country's vital sugar-cane harvest next month.

Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka told troops at Suva's Queen Elizabeth barracks that he and several senior officers planned to draw up a plan for the post-coup interim government on actions the army could take, radio Fiji reported.

Last week, Rabuka said the military forces would be prepared to cut cane if the government ordered them to do so.

Rabuka led two 1987 racially inspired coups that ousted Fiji's Indian-dominated elected government. Rabuka, then an army colonel, claimed he was protecting the rights of indigenous Fijians.



Children stopped

An armed Pakistani soldier stops a jeep carrying children from entering a curfew area of Karachi. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boat people problem: The head of the UN agency in charge of refugees suggested on Monday that the answer to the boat people problem was for the West to pour aid into Vietnam.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said economic and social problems had prompted many Vietnamese to flee their homeland in an exodus he termed a humanitarian nightmare.

"It appears to me that the time has come for us to recognize that until these root causes are clearly addressed, the exodus is likely to continue in spite of UNHCR's best efforts," he told the agency's 43-nation committee, which includes major donors such as the United States, Japan and the EEC. (Reuters)

International law meeting: President Daniel Arap Moi reversed his attorney general's decision on Monday and said Kenya will host an international Bar Association conference in September.

"The meeting will go ahead as planned because it is important and will be held in Africa for the first time," state radio quoted Moi as telling IBA President Amos Wako.

Attorney-general Matthew Muli said last Thursday the meeting would not take place in Nairobi because of a rift among members of the law society of Kenya. (Reuters)

Shift in priorities: Britain is cutting back on its diplomatic representation in the Third World as a result of a shift in priorities towards Eastern Europe, a leading London paper said Monday.

The Independent newspaper said the UK Foreign Office is facing a financial and staffing crisis as a result of the growing need for its diplomats in Eastern Europe, following the recent political changes there.

The British government fears that without a swift response to developments in Europe, Britain will fail to exert influence or capitalise on opportunities, the paper noted.

But it predicted that there would be protests that by reducing its presence in Latin America and Africa, Britain will lose influence in other key regions. (Kuna)

Last round of defence talks: Greece and the United States on Monday opened their last round of talks that is expected to end in agreement for an eight-year defence pact.

The pact will permit the operation of US bases in the country.

Government spokesman Vyron Polydoros said: "The final round (of talks) began this morning and is expected to last until the end of the week."

Polydoros told journalists that the duration of the accord would be eight years instead of five, as the previous one which expired in December 1988. (AP)

Job hunting: The job hunting season for graduating Japanese students has already begun despite an agreement that major companies bar recruiting activities until Aug 20.

That date was set, as it is every year, by the Japan Federation of Employers' Association and Japanese universities.

According to this year's agreement, students can start visiting companies on Aug 20 and companies can start sending notices of employment on Oct 1. (Kuna)

Lafontaine faces party revolt: West German Social Democrat leader Oskar Lafontaine, still recovering from a knife attack last month, faces a party revolt for opposing Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plans for rapid German unity.

An increasing number of members looked set to desert Lafontaine after he said at the weekend the party should oppose the economic union treaty in the lower house of parliament.

Social Democrat leaders met in Bonn on Monday to discuss the crisis.

Murray to get Jazzpar prize: American tenor saxophonist David Murray will be awarded the second international Jazzpar prize, the awarding committee said on Monday.

"Murray will receive the prize which is given to an internationally known and fully active jazz artist who is especially deserving of further acclaim," said Arvid Meyer of the Danish Jazz Centre and chairman of the award committee. (AP)

Rats and bugs keep Bangladesh hungry

DHAKA, May 28, (Reuters): Rats and bugs are keeping Bangladesh from being able to feed its people, agriculture experts say.

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has said Bangladesh's annual foodgrains production will go up to 20 million tonnes by 1992, enough to feed the impoverished nation's entire population of 110 million and meet emergencies.

Bangladesh produced 18 million tonnes of grains in 1989 and hopes to raise its harvest to 19.5 million this year.

"But the irony is that the country suffers poor harvest foodgrains wastage of about 2.4 million tonnes every year," said Mohammad Hossain, a top official of the Bangladesh Agriculture Institute.

Mondol told an agriculture training course in Dhaka yesterday that the target would be achieved only if the huge wastage could be checked.

Experts say rats devour one million grains while insects destroy at least half a million tonnes more in the fields every year.

Gabon protesters take to streets

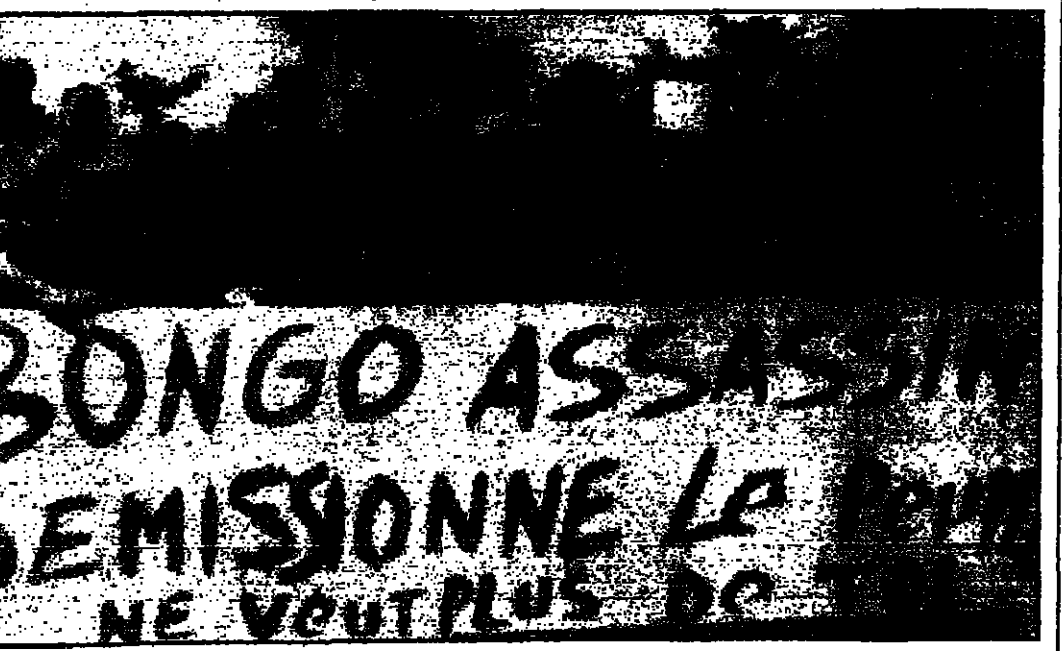
'Bongo must go, there is too much corruption'

PORT-GENTIL, Gabon, May 28, (Reuters): Hundreds of protesters, some armed with hunting rifles, marched through Gabon's rebellious oil capital yesterday accusing President Omar Bongo of murder and demanding his resignation.

For the fifth consecutive day, residents gathered shortly before dusk in defiance of the government.

The worst outbreak of violence since the West African state won independence from France in 1960 was triggered by the suspicious death of a leading opposition politician.

Protests have been loudest in the oil-exporting centre of Port-Gentil, a city of 80,000 people 130 km (80 km) southwest of the capital, Libreville. "Bongo must go, there is too much corruption," an unemployed mechanic of 23 said as protesters filed past, holding placards saying "Bongo out" and "Bongo murderer."



Women gather around a sign accusing Bongo of being a murderer and calling for his resignation. (Reuters wirephoto)

in red letters on the French consulate's wall.

PGP supporters say Bongo, 54, who has wielded absolute power for the past 22 years, is responsible for his death.

Oil companies, including France's Elf and the Anglo-

Dutch giant Shell have stopped production and repatriated staff.

Reporters saw fire damage at Bongo's palace here, as well as at the governor's residence, a brand new hotel and parts of the French consulate. Dozens of burned-out cars littered the dusty streets.

The under-mentioned personnel have left Al Mulla Group's employment:			
Sr. No.	Names	Nationality	Passport No.
1.	Bienvenido M. Duenas 111	Filipino	D 966477
2.	Intiaz Ahmed	Pakistani	B 770338
3.	Ravinder Singh Surjeet Singh	Indian	N 9744
4.	Mohd Ismail Ahmed Hashim	Sri Lankan	J 02142
5.	Carmel Abraham Immanuel	Indian	X 7952
6.	Jagannath Panchal	Indian	C 8192
7.	Victor Falconeria Sequeira	Indian	F 2685
8.	Anil Sunny Massey Budden	India	X 977
9.	Mohd Zahid Iqbal	Pakistani	A 589
10.	Liyakat Ali Abdul Rahman Khatib	Indian	X 06
11.	Pattiyage Premaratna Fernando	Sri Lanka	J 0085
12.	Aruna Priyantha Dissanayake	Sri Lanka	J 0423572
13.	Mohd Omar Mohd Ghouse	Indian	E 653146
14.	Desai Sumer Ramchandra	Indian	3 02424
15.	Sami Ahmed Aliauddin Ahmed	Indian	34 441
16.	Oswald Fernandes	Indian	2243
17.	Mohd Hasan Mohd Aly	Egyptian	C 3021
18.	Lakhbir Singh Gura Singh	Indian	S 702660
19.	Baby Valiatharayil Varghese	Indian	R 542678
20.	Velu Pillai Mohana Kumar	Indian	C 170494

They are hereby requested to call at our Personnel Department for cancellation/transfer of their residence permits. The Company will cancel their residence permits after 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement and will not be responsible for any legal aspects related to them.

De Klerk slams rightwing whites

JOHANNESBURG, May 28. (AP) In a harsh attack on apartheid whites, President F.D. de Klerk said today that the country's leading rightwing movement had become "irresponsible, undemocratic and dangerous."

De Klerk's denunciation of the Conservative Party follows a 50,000-strong rally Saturday by rightwing whites who vowed to resist the president's plans to dismantle apartheid.

The rally in the capital of Pretoria was the largest pro-apartheid demonstration since De Klerk came to power last August and began launching a series of reforms.

"The Conservative Party's threats of revolt and resistance are irresponsible, undemocratic and dangerous to our country," De Klerk said in the Nationalist, the official mouthpiece of his ruling National Party.

De Klerk said that if the conservatives did not refrain from "radicalism", it could lead whites into a "violent broadsword" or fight between brothers.

The president's comments were among the harshest he has levelled against the Conservatives and rightwing whites.

The Conservatives won 31 per cent of the vote in white elections last year and are the official opposition in the dominant white chamber of Parliament. The party favours rigid apartheid and says blacks should have political rights only in tribal homelands.

De Klerk said the aims of the Conservatives were "unworkable and divisive."

De Klerk says he wants to end discrimination and negotiate a new constitution that will allow the 5 million whites to share power with the 28 million blacks.

Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, the country's largest black opposition group, on Saturday accused De Klerk of not moving fast enough to end apartheid.

Mandela, speaking at a rally near Pretoria, also said his organisation felt De Klerk "is not strong enough to end the violence going on."

Mandela was referring to both the black faction fighting in Natal and the actions of the police, who have fired on black demonstrators several times in recent weeks, resulting in more than 20 deaths.

Police said yesterday morning that nine blacks were killed in the preceding 24 hours in a series of faction fights in Natal. Some 4,000 blacks have died in the region since 1986.

South African released Soviet spy Ruth Gerhardt, whose senior naval officer husband betrayed Western secrets to Moscow for 19 years, and put her on a plane bound for Switzerland yesterday, the prisons service said.

Swiss-born Ruth Gerhardt, 47, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for high treason in December 1983. De Klerk announced her release while on an official visit to Switzerland on Tuesday during his nine-nation tour of Europe.

Her husband Dieter Gerhardt, who was a commander in the South African navy and commander of its strategic Simonstown Naval Base near Cape Town before his arrest, is still serving a life sentence for high treason.

South African ex-army officers returned from talks in Zambia with the African National Congress (ANC) yesterday and backed a call for a ceasefire between the movement's guerrillas and Pretoria.

Liberian fighting

HARBEL, Liberia, May 28. (AP) Rebels advanced toward Monrovia yesterday, fighting artillery and mortar battles with troops at a checkpoint on the edge of the world's biggest rubber plantation near the capital.

Hundreds of civilians fled fighting on Saturday and Sunday around the town of Kakata and took refuge in Harbel, a company town on the plantation of Bridgestone-Firestone Inc. Located 35 miles (56 kilometres) northeast of Monrovia, it is a US subsidiary of the Japanese company Bridgestone.

On Saturday, western diplomatic sources said rebel troops had advanced to within 30 miles (50 kilometres) of Monrovia, the closest they had reached since launching their invasion five months ago. They were driven back, however, before advancing again yesterday.

Residents said they heard shells and mortars as well as machine-gun fire when rebels attacked an army checkpoint at the northern end of the rubber plantation, southeast of Kakata.



Father Connolly poses with young members of his congregation who live in the killing fields of South Africa's Natal province. (Reuters wirephoto)

Killing fields of Natal

Families turn on families

SWEETWATERS, South Africa, May 28. (Reuters) Father Sean Connolly's parish is a piece of earthly hell.

The Roman Catholic priest of western Ireland farming stock administrators to a flock of Zulus in the "killing fields" of Natal, where civil war has killed more people in three years than the conflicts of Northern Ireland or Beirut.

The chiselled, bony features of the silver-haired priest, usually creased in laughter, wince as he stands on a sunny hillside and observes that the slaughter is often by children, some only eight years old.

"How can you teach Christianity to a child in all of this?" he asks. "He has probably already killed, or helped to kill."

The strife in South Africa's Natal province is commonly attributed to a power struggle between the giants of black politics, Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the traditional Inkatha movement of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

At least 3,000 people, probably many more as bodies are often secretly buried or buried, have died since 1987 as Zulu turns on Zulu, family on family, and children on their parents.

But experts in this area of sun-scorched valleys and eroded hills say politics is only the spark that exploded tension built over many years by extreme poverty in one of the most bereft parts of South Africa — where people have killed for the use of a water tap.

"There's no roads, no sewerage, no water, no electricity, no transport, no law and order," said the priest, who cares for 800 Christian families in a scarred 15 km (10 mile) crescent here alongside the Edendale valley.

"You'd think this was the last place God made."

The violence swirls through the black homeland

of KwaZulu, created by white government for the Zulu nation under grand apartheid's plan of separate racial development, and into the teeming squatter camps and townships abutting Durban, white South Africa's glittering Indian Ocean playground.

The Inkatha Institute, a think tank funded by the movement, says the 2.7 million blacks of Natal's townships and some eight million in KwaZulu are the bottom of the heap in South Africa.

Forty per cent have no proper houses, 48 per cent no job, 80 per cent of children are illegitimate and 73 per cent of employable youths have no work or prospect of any.

One 25,000-population township, Willowfontein, has no water, electricity or clinic. In the 1980s, the area was hit by record hurricanes, floods and droughts which turned large tracts of land into desert and sent thousands of people trekking into the urban areas where they collided with established black townships over scarce jobs and resources.

Into this socio-economic disaster are then intruded political rivalry as the conservative, pro-business Inkatha structure of tribal chiefs was challenged by the revolutionary, pro-labour ANC-aligned United Democratic Front.

Inkatha, most analysts say, was soon fighting for its life against a younger rival that accused it of copping up to the white government under the homeland set-up.

The lost younger generation of Zululand went to war under blurred Inkatha or UDF labels with a form of nihilistic violence that tore families and communities apart, locals say.

Graham Howe, editor of Natal University's respected Indicator South Africa Project, says 90 per cent of recorded violence is by youths between 14 and 25.

Red Army marks Lod attack

TOKYO, May 28. (AP) The Japan Red Army has marked the 18th anniversary of its terrorist attack on Israel's Lod Airport with a statement vowing to fight for revolution with the spirit of that attack.

A 5,500-word statement, dated May 30, was sent to supporters in Tokyo from abroad, possibly from

the Middle East. A copy was obtained today by Kyodo news service.

In the statement, the terrorists called for opening an age of "people's revolution," and said success in revolution in Japan could help in economically troubled Eastern Europe and the Third World.



Man who stopped tanks

The man who captured the spirit of the 1989 pro-democracy movement in China by stopping a column of tanks has vanished. An Associated Press photograph and television pictures showed the man, in a white shirt, standing defiantly before the tanks near Tiananmen Square on June 5. The pictures appeared around the world and became a symbol of the pro-democracy protests.

Picture shows 19-year-old Wang Weilin takes a stance on the Avenue of Eternal Peace to halt a convoy of military tanks on June 5. (Reuters wirephoto)

Last-ditch bid to save traffickers from gallows

Hong Kong citizens appeal to Malaysian king for clemency

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28. (UPI) Relatives of eight Hong Kong citizens sentenced to be hanged for drug offences appealed to the king today in a last-ditch attempt to save their loved ones from the gallows.

With Malaysia's largest mass hanging set for dawn Wednesday, officials held out little hope, noting the government has turned down all appeals for clemency since introducing the death sentence for drug-related offences 15 years ago.

In their petition sent to the monarch, Azlan Shah, the desperate relatives noted that "the death penalty is irreversible."

"None of them (the eight) made any confession. It

cannot be said for certain that they are guilty," the relatives pleaded.

Although it is within the constitutional power of the king to grant a pardon and reduce the sentences to life imprisonment, there is no precedent for his intervention.

The eight Hong Kong nationals were arrested on the island of Penang in October 1982 after customs officials found 28 pounds (12.7 kg) of heroin concealed in the bottom of five suitcases.

The eight all denied knowledge of the presence of the drug, but five were found guilty of trafficking and the other three of abetting them. They were all sentenced to be hanged under the country's harsh

Junta concedes opposition gains

Pro-democracy party wins in Burmese poll

RANGOON, May 28. (AP) Burma's martial law government conceded today that the leading pro-democracy party had scored a major election victory and promised to relinquish power as soon as a new constitution was approved.

Only one violent incident was reported as voters went to the polls yesterday in the country's first multi-party elections in 30 years to elect a 492-seat national legislature which is to draft a constitution.

Col Ye Htut, a spokesman for the ruling military junta which killed several thousand people as it suppressed a pro-democracy uprising in

1988, told reporters that unofficial results showed the National League for Democracy had a two-thirds majority in 100 of Burma's 485 constituencies.

"The army will abide by the new constitution" to be drawn up by the legislature, he said.

Some critics said before the elections began that they were not free and fair because of widespread arrests, intimidation and the arrests of major opposition figures.

The League victory came despite the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi, who helped from the party during the 1988 uprising, and the imprisonment of co-party leader Tin Oo. A League official alleged yesterday that nearly 400 other party followers were imprisoned.

Myint U, a League official, said the party wanted to release all political prisoners.

But it was not clear how much power the election-winners would be able to exercise over the military.

Of the 93 political groups and 2,297 candidates running in the election, Ye Htut said the League had prevailed, apparently in both the cities and in the countryside.

The pro-military National United Party received about one-third of the vote while other parties contesting yesterday's election captured only a minor fraction, he said.

Final official results will take up to three weeks to compile.

"Any government that is formed according to the constitution will be strong and stable," said another military spokesman, Kyau Sana. "It is totally up to the elected members (of the new legislature). They can move as quickly as they like and take power."

Official election announcements have been slow, with only 15 races declared — 13 won by the main opposition and two by small parties allied with it. The military government has said final official results could take as long as three weeks to announce.

"I think the military expected to lose, but I don't think they expected to lose by so much," said a Western diplomat in Rangoon.

Victory celebrations were reported in several large cities.

"It is an excellent day for Burma. We are making a new history I hope," said Bahan, an executive committee member of the League contacted in Rangoon. "We had expected a win but not so much of a landslide as this."

"We hope with this mandate by the people we can go on to change to a democratic system very easily and peacefully," he added.

Western diplomats in Rangoon said the reaction of some people to the results was tempered with caution.

There is euphoria in the party but it is not evident in the streets. There is a certain buoyancy perhaps, but people aren't exactly drinking themselves blind drunk in the streets or anything like that yet," said one diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lanka seeks Islamic help

COLOMBO, May 28. (Kuna) A resolution urging all Islamic and Arab nations to support the Sri Lankan government and people for taking the courageous decision to sever ties with Israel was adopted at the concluding sessions this weekend by the third international Islamic seminar for South-East Asia held in Colombo.

The World Islamic Call Society, which organised the seminar, decided on back-up action to make the resolution a reality.

The secretary-general of the society, Doctor Mohamed Al Shariff said his organisation will urge all Muslim governments to increase financial aid and assistance to Sri Lanka.



North Korea returned the remains on Monday of five Americans killed during the Korean war in what US officials called an important gesture towards better relations between the two countries.

Six white-gloved civilian North Korean palbearers handed five pine caskets to a US, British and South Korean military honour guard on the other side of the concrete kerb marking the truce line between North and South Korea.

"I think it's a very important gesture and one that could open the door," said US Congressman Sonny Montgomery, chairman of the House of Representatives veterans affairs committee.

Montgomery, a Democrat from Mississippi, led an eight-member congressional delegation that travelled to Korea to accept the remains at the border village of Panmunjom, where delegates to the Korean war armistice commission meet.

It was the first time since 1954 that North Korea had returned remains of war dead from the 1950-53 conflict, in which the United States, Britain and 14 other nations fought under the United Nations flag to repel a North Korean invasion of the South.

The North Koreans significantly chose to return the remains on America's Memorial Day, a holiday in honour of the nation's war dead. (Reuters wirephoto)

Americans remember soldiers killed in war

WASHINGTON, May 28. (UPI) Americans observed the Memorial Day holiday with a combination of solemnity and celebration, attending beach parties and barbecues while taking time to honour the nation's war dead at cemeteries and monuments across the country.

Millions paid homage to US soldiers killed in action, attending simple hometown services or ceremonies from the stark wall of the Vietnam veterans memorial in Washington, D.C., to the presidio of San Francisco.

At Arlington national cemetery in Virginia, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the tomb of the unknowns, followed by a memorial day service at the memorial amphitheater.

Protest rally on mobikes

WASHINGTON, May 28. (AP) Thousands of motorcyclists staged a "rolling thunder" rally past the White House and the Soviet and Laotian embassies yesterday to protest the handling of America's missing in action from the Vietnam war.

"The effort is to keep alive before the public and the media an issue the White House is trying to lay to rest," said Ted Samplary, one of the organisers.

National Park police estimated that 15,000 people took part in the rally and an associated "rock for freedom" concert and demonstration held near the Lincoln and Vietnam memorials.

It was the first time since 1954 that North Korea had returned remains of war dead from the 1950-53 conflict, in which the United States, Britain and 14 other nations fought under the United Nations flag to repel a North Korean invasion of the South.

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Beijing students recall June 4

June 4

BEIJING, May 28. (AP) Beijing college students, who led the pro-democracy movement last spring, say June 4, will be a difficult day.

For some, the empty bunk in their tiny, concrete dorm room will remind them again of a roommate who was killed that day, arrested soon afterward, or has fled the country or gone underground.

The day will be even harder to get through because they cannot show outward signs of mourning or hold memorial services for those the government calls "counter-revolutionaries."

In general, few people speak readily of "the turn of the tide" or the "64 incident," code words for the democracy movement, and the military crackdown a year ago.

Most have simply put it behind them, saying they have to continue with their lives.

"But even if people don't realise the anniversary is approaching, they'll know it just by the signs around them, like all the extra police," a young intellectual said.

Students say the day will not pass unmarked.

"We'll have some memorial activity" — individually, whatever each person is able to do, a sophomore at Beijing University said.

"The present situation and environment doesn't allow us to take any kind of action, but as long as everyone remembers in their hearts," that's enough, said a senior at Beijing normal whose roommate was arrested last June.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of people were killed in the streets of Beijing in the early hours of June 4, shot down by soldiers called in to crush the pro-democracy movement.

Police swept through the city soon afterward, arresting thousands. About 780 have been released, but many remain in jail without charge or trial.

Other people have gone into hiding. Five student leaders on China's most-wanted list are known to have escaped to Western countries.

School authorities have organised dances, movie showings and other activities this spring to keep students busy.

3 arrested in Sabah state

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia, May 28. (Reuters) Three people have been arrested and detained under the internal security act in Sabah, Malaysia's only Christian-controlled state, which dissolved its state assembly last week, police said yesterday.

The three were arrested on Friday, a day before Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan dissolved the 54-seat assembly in readiness for a snap election. Sabah police chief Haji Syed Othman Syed Ali was quoted by state-run radio as saying. He declined to name them.

Local newspapers identified one of the arrested men as Benedict Topin, a leader in the youth wing of Pairin's ruling Bersatu Sabah Party.



Captain Tong Yat Lan (left) of the Salvation Army comforts Yuen Wai-fong (centre) sister of Yuen Kwok-Kwan and Chan Chuen-Hei (right) mother of Li Chi-ping. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev facing same problems that caused czars to fall

Slogans of the day are 'land to the peasants' and 'all power to the soviets'

MOSCOW, May 28, (AP): For some students of history, the sense of déjà vu is chilling: weakening central power faces nearly total discontent among ethnic groups, disgruntled workers, and mutually suspicious intellectuals arrayed in a myriad of political parties.

The slogans of the day are: "Land to the peasants" and "all power to the soviets."

A cumbersome and ideology-laden bureaucracy finds it easier to stick to its old ways than to reform.

With perhaps vital differences Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990 faces many of the same bewildering problems that caused the Czarist empire to come crashing down around Nicholas II in spring 1917, and the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky to fall to the Bolsheviks that autumn.

Now, however, the heir to Lenin's legacy is himself struggling with those difficulties as if they merely were frozen in time by decades of Soviet power.

The warning is sounded on the pages of the official press, over tea at the kitchen table, and in the Soviet Congress, where 84-year-old scholar Dmitri Likhachev warned

in March against subjecting the country to a nation-wide presidential election.

"I remember the revolution of February (1917) very well, and I know where emotions can lead," he told Parliament. "Understand our conditions. Direct election of the president will lead to civil war. A bloody civil war followed the Bolsheviks' seizure of power."

Writer Andranik Migranyan said in the weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta: "Really, you can come to despair from the thought that in this country, everything repeats itself."

But if the country can make the break to even a slightly less authoritarian system of government, "that already will be the light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Gorbachev's most stubborn problems are ethnic disputes and economic dislocation, familiar problems for pre-revolutionary times.

The fringe areas of the Russian empire that escaped during the turmoil of the revolution only to be patiently gathered by Stalin again are asserting their independence. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the three Baltic republics that won a rare spell of freedom out of the ruins of the Russian

empire, are leading the way.

The economy is in disarray. Industrial production fell 1.2 per cent in the first three months of 1990. Strikes last summer by thousands of coal miners finally broke the long prohibition against job actions that was enforced by strict communist rule, and led to the legalisation of some strikes.

Regardless of legality, 130,000 people were on strike on any given day in the first quarter of the year. Store shelves are empty and people are angry.

Gorbachev has seemed powerless to halt the ethnic unrest. He bought time against last year's coal mine strike with broad promises of better living conditions that are nowhere near being fulfilled.

Strike committees still are active in many cities and in a recent meeting representatives of about 50 of them declared a lack of confidence in the government's ability to reform the economy. They stopped short of forming or endorsing a political party, but agreed on a confederation to keep the pressure on Moscow.

Just as the Bolsheviks agitated for the overthrow of the Czarist government and then Kerensky's provisional government,

dozens of new political parties now are pressing to push the communists out of power.

The Soviet leader's opponents hark back to 1917 to argue that 72 years of communist rule has brought the country little but ruin.

In 1917, "all power to the soviets" was the slogan under which Lenin's legions took power. In 1990, protesters march with the same banner, demanding that the Communist Party bureaucracy turn power over to an elected Parliament, or Soviet.

The goal of a new party must not be to work within the system but to break up the system," Nikolai Travkin, a former communist, told supporters of his drive to form an anti-communist party.

Repeating the sorry experience of the past, the new parties often cannot agree on their own programme much less a common front. Russian Social Democrats meeting in Moscow in early May spent much of their time debating whether local chapters would have to obey central authority.

Such disputes paralysed the Russian political system before the Bolshevik Revolution and gave Lenin's highly disciplined minority the opening it needed to seize power.

But there are important differences between 1917 and 1990.

Many historians argue that Czarist Russia, despite its archaic political system, could have been transformed peacefully if not for World War I.

The Russian economy was expanding rapidly, farm output was growing, and expenditures for education were increasing.

The war exposed fatal weaknesses in political and economic administration, which led not only to military losses but severe food shortages in the cities, they argue.

Gorbachev has resolutely avoided military conflicts. He has pulled Soviet soldiers out of Afghanistan, concluded arms control agreements with the West and started pulling soldiers out of Eastern Europe in order to spend more of the country's resources on the domestic economy.

In contrast to Nicholas II and Kerensky, Gorbachev is a consummate inside politician, master of the system in which he has worked for more than 30 years.

He has patiently isolated and eliminated his Communist Party foes and stands alone now atop both the government and party

apparatus.

Nevertheless, critics charge that he is dangerously late in making key reforms, and that he does not fully understand the country he governs.

Vyacheslav Shostakovsky, rector of Moscow's Higher Party School and a leading party reformer, said Gorbachev is isolated by the party's inability to give him a real understanding of what people are feeling.

"His rare trips don't give him the emotional colouring," Shostakovsky said in an interview. "That's why he was shocked by the May 1 events" when tens of thousands of protesters marched past him in a May Day parade.

If Gorbachev had understood the mood of the people, he would have been able to anticipate the angry reaction, Shostakovsky said.

In February, less than two months after rejecting the idea, he led the party into accepting a multi-party system. At the same time the party adopted the principle of private property, and a new law going into effect on July 1 will allow Soviet entrepreneurs to hire labour.

General blames Nicu for killings

SIBIU, Romania, May 28, (Reuters): A Romanian general blamed the son of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu today for 89 killings in the central city of Sibiu during last December's revolution.

"He told me we are in a state of war, not in a state of alarm. Let's finish it off," General Aurel Dragomir told a military tribunal trying Ceausescu's son Nicu on a charge of genocide.

"What did you understand by that?" presiding judge Major Doru Ursu asked Dragomir.

"He meant the use of force," said the general, who was Army commander in Sibiu where Nicu was head of the local Communist Party.

Nicu, 38, denied on the first day of his trial on Saturday that he had ordered troops to open fire without warning on unarmed demonstrators during last December's bloody uprising.

He faces life imprisonment if convicted.

He told the five-man military tribunal the order was issued in the belief Romania was under foreign attack and that he never intended arms to be used against civilians.

Demonstrators remained split yesterday on whether to end their 36-day occupation of Bucharest's main square because the government has rejected their key demand to ban former high-ranking communists from holding public office.

As heavy rain drenched University Square and its tent camp late yesterday, a loudspeaker continued to blast anti-communist slogans and urge passers-by not to support President-elect Ion Iliescu, a former Communist Party politburo member.

Romanian officials expressed hope yesterday that the Romanian-Soviet border would be opened permanently this summer after 50 years, linking a region that was once united.

But a temporary opening of the border scheduled for yesterday was postponed until June 24, disappointing dozens of Romanians who had come to border crossings in hopes of seeing friends and relatives from the Soviet Union.

Soviet sources at the border, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the border opening was rejected by the Supreme Soviet.

Sofia plans to increase poll security

SOFIA, Bulgaria, May 28, (AP): The government said Sunday it will increase police security to prevent further violence before Bulgaria's first multi-party elections on June 10.

The Interior Ministry announced the increased police deployment yesterday after the ruling party newspaper, Duma, reported several attacks and threats against candidates running in the elections.

The newspaper of the Bulgarian Socialist Party — the former Communist Party — said in a rare report on actions by its own party members that socialist supporters nearly clashed with opposition demonstrators in a village on Saturday.

The newspaper also said a local Socialist Party leader has complained of threats by opposition supporters.



A dead body lies on the ground behind a bullet-riddled British registered car in the southern Dutch town of Roermond late May 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aussies murdered Victims of mistaken identity

AMSTERDAM, May 28, (Reuters): Two young Australian tourists gunned down in the Netherlands last night seem to have been mistaken for off-duty British soldiers because they were in a British-registered car, Dutch police said today.

The two unnamed men, aged 25 to 30 and identified by the Australian embassy in the Hague as lawyers, died instantly when masked men shot them down in the southern town of Roermond, popular with British troops based nearby in West Germany.

Two women companions escaped unhurt. Resembling off-duty soldiers because of looks, age and dress, their British-registered rental car apparently made the two men unwitting terrorist targets.

The British abandoned military number plates after a series of attacks on servicemen in continental Europe in recent years by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which seeks to end British rule in northern Ireland.

These included a murder in Roermond itself two years ago, attributed by police to the IRA.

"There's a 99 per cent chance that a car with British licence plates in Roermond belongs to the military," police spokesman Harry Claibbers said.

"If the IRA assumed all British cars here belong to soldiers then they have made a disastrous mistake," he added.

Police said two female companions, wife and girlfriend respectively of the victims, escaped unhurt in the attack.

"It appears they had just come over from England that day and weren't quite sure where they were heading that night. They had not booked any accommodation here," the police spokesman said.

A spokesman for the Australian embassy in the Hague said the two victims were lawyers but declined to name them.

The embassy said the two couples, based in London, apparently had taken the opportunity of today's public holiday in Britain to take a long weekend on the continent.

The two victims and one of the women were from Sydney while the second woman, wife of one of the victims, originated from Brisbane, he said.

Bonn rejects Soviet ideas

Nato membership

STRAUSBERG, East Germany, May 28, (Reuters): West Germany today rejected a Soviet proposal that a united Germany could be a political Nato member outside the military command, but said the idea showed Moscow was moving in the right direction.

"I do not see this as the solution to this matter," said West German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg after the first visit to East Germany's Disarmament and Defence Ministry by a Bonn minister.

"It is remarkable that the Soviet president is now beginning to concern himself in public with the prerequisites for (German) Nato membership," he told a news conference.

Last Friday, President Mikhail Gorbachev raised the pos-

sibility that Germany could belong to Nato's political organisation if it stayed outside its military command, in the same way as France.

Unnamed West German officials said on Saturday they could not warm to Gorbachev's idea, but Stoltenberg's comments were the first official response from the Bonn government.

"We, the Federal government, believe this formula should not be the end result," he said.

Western powers want Germany to be a Nato member. Moscow has proposed neutrality and other options short of full membership. Stoltenberg held over two hours of talks with Disarmament and Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann, their second formal meeting since an initial encounter in Cologne on April 27.

Terrorist bomb caused Italian jet crash

ROME, May 28, (Reuters): New evidence about the crash of an Italian airliner 10 years ago has changed the minds of two investigators who say a terrorist bomb, not a missile, brought down the plane, judicial sources said today.

Investigators had suggested in March that a jet, probably Libyan, shot down the Itavia DC-9 airliner near Sicily in 1980, killing all 81 people aboard.

Various theories about the crash have been proposed, including one that the airliner was shot down in error by an Italian or other Nato fighter

pursuing another plane carrying either Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Khaddafi or an escaping Libyan rebel air force officer.

The sources said that Massimo Blasi, head of a five-member panel of experts, changed his mind after air force radar operators told his commission that traces previously believed to have been of a fighter plane near the DC-9 could have been of the airliner itself.

The panel, which last year said an air-to-air missile hit the DC-9, is now split on the causes of the crash.

Gorbachev firmly in control, says Bush

'Big agenda' set for superpower summit

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, May 28, (Reuters): US President George Bush said today he regarded Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as politically strong despite enormous economic and social problems in the Soviet Union.

Bush also said there was a "big agenda" for his May 30-June 3 summit with the Soviet president and that he was looking forward to the talks.

Speaking with reporters before a round of golf at the Cape Arundel Golf Club near his seaside vacation home in Kennebunkport, Bush

"My own personal opinion is that he's pretty darn strong there and I said that after talking to an awful lot of Soviet experts," said the President before hitting his ball on the first tee.

His comments contrasted with remarks on Sunday by Secretary of State James Baker and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Baker told a US television interviewer that the panic buying and independence movements by several Soviet republics including Lithuania were threatening Gorbachev's control from below even through the Soviet leader had strengthened his position from the top since meeting Bush in Malta in December.

The secretary of state said it was important to reach agreements with Moscow as soon as possible to make it harder for any future government to reverse Gorbachev's reforms if he were overthrown.

Scowcroft told another television interviewer it was impossible to predict if Gorbachev would retain power.

While Bush prepared for the summit with a relaxing weekend of golf and boating, Gorbachev made a televised appeal to the Soviet people on Sunday night, asking them to remain calm ahead of planned price rises as Moscow seeks to shift to a more market-oriented economy.

Refreshed by a long holiday weekend on the scenic New England coast, President Bush is ready for hard-nosed discussion with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the status of a united Germany and the Baltic independence drive.

Those issues have emerged as major bones of contention at the US-Soviet summit opening in Washington later this week.

"I want to convince Gorbachev, with whom I can talk freely — he's the kind of man you can talk very frankly with — that... a Germany in Nato not only is no threat to the Soviet Union, but preserves the kind of stable Europe that the Soviets should welcome," Bush said in an interview aimed on Soviet television yesterday.

While bailing Gorbachev is a statesman, Bush said "he may be mad with me over some things because we do have some differences."

Bush said he would not try to exploit any weakness suffered by Gorbachev because of economic problems and ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union.

"I think that when you sit down with a respected world leader, it's not a question of who is stronger, who is weaker, who has got bigger problems, who has got less problems," the president said.

He promised to treat the Soviet people and their leader "with the respect that they deserve."

The Soviet Union's popularity has soared in the United States since the last superpower summit, and Americans increasingly support US military cuts to reflect the lessened tensions, a survey found.

discussed his expectations for this week's summit.

The meeting takes place against a backdrop of domestic turmoil for Gorbachev including panic buying of food in anticipation of the end of government price controls and a new wave of ethnic violence in Armenia.

But Bush, who has tied his foreign policy closely to Gorbachev's reform programme, minimised the risk to his summit partner's tenure in office.

Plans for summit in high gear

WASHINGTON, May 28, (UPI): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will be travelling with 250 advisers, his own satellite station, six Soviet Zil limousines and 18 Russian airplanes when he arrives this week for the superpower summit.

Instead of Blair House, President George Bush's guest house, Gorbachev has chosen to stay in the Soviet embassy, where he can have his own secure lines of communication.

Despite rising expectations for the summit, US Chief of Protocol Joseph Reed insists Gorbachev will be treated as just another "state visitor" with the usual trappings accorded on such occasions, on orders from President Bush.

Reed said Bush wants to institutionalise Gorbachev visits to make them the norm in a relationship, instead of the exception.

"This is the first state visit of the president of the Soviet Union," Reed said. "It will have the specific architecture of a state visit. It's the correct way to do business."

To some observers, however, the Bush decision to treat Gorbachev's trip as a state visit reflects a desire to play it down.

But no matter how it is viewed in the White House and State Department, a Gorbachev visit is still seen as extraordinary and the gathering of the superpower leaders will be treated as a summit.

Gorbachev will arrive from a two-day Canadian state visit 6:30 pm (22:30 GMT) Wednesday and will be welcomed at Andrews Air Force Base, just outside Washington, by Secretary of State James Baker, his wife, Susan, and other officials.

There will be a red carpet greeting by Bush on the White House south lawn at 10 am (14:00 GMT) Thursday, after which the two presidents will adjourn to the oval office for their first talks since they last met in Malta in December 1989.

The agenda will reflect the historic changes in the past year in Eastern Europe.

Discussions will focus on arms control, including nuclear and conventional forces disarmament, German reunification and its proposed membership in Nato — which Gorbachev opposes — the Baltic states, regional conflicts, Soviet Jewish emigration and an improved trade relationship between Washington and Moscow.

Washington, May 28, (AP): American and Soviet negotiators held two rounds of talks yesterday at the State Department to try to expand an agreement to cut long-range nuclear missiles.

There was no word from officials on either side whether any of the half-dozen issues on the bargaining table were resolved.

A two-sentence notice to the press said the delegations, chaired by Under Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew and Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Karpov, had in a morning session and resumed work in the afternoon.

The goal was to expand the declaration of an agreement that President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev are due to announce at their summit meeting, which opens here Thursday.



An Uncle Sam hot air balloon flies together with a Russian 'matrioska' over Leningrad May 27 as visual symbol of the forthcoming Washington summit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yeltsin tries again Proposes coalition

MOSCOW, May 28, (Reuters): Populist politician Boris Yeltsin renewed his bid today to become president of Russia and win a power base to challenge the Soviet leadership, by proposing a coalition with his conservative opponents.

Speaking at a stormy session of the Parliament of the Russian Federation, the largest of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, Yeltsin offered an olive branch to the hardline communists who have twice blocked his path to the presidency.

Moscow shops, meanwhile, began enforcing restrictions on food sales after three days of panic buying sparked by the announcement of plans for huge price increases as part of the Kremlin's economic recovery programme.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking on television yesterday, made a last-minute defence of the plan to introduce a "regulated market economy" within five years, and deputies in the national Parliament launched fresh attacks on it today.

In the southern republic of Armenia, a recurring bout of ethnic tension also posing a challenge to Gorbachev, 22 people, including two soldiers, were reported killed in clashes between Soviet troops and nationalist militants.

More than 100,000 people were expected to attend a rally in the capital, Yerevan, commemorating Armenia's brief independence from 1918 to 1920.

US-Soviet negotiators try to conclude pact

The declaration, in turn, is to lead to a formal treaty by the end of the year. The details are complex however, and after eight years of negotiations further delay is possible.

Among the issues taken up by Bartholomew, Karpov and their assistants are procedures for verifying compliance with the accord once it is ratified, whether restrictions are to be imposed on Soviet backfire bomber and whether to bar the Soviets from modernising their SS-18 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Under the treaty the Soviets will cut their arsenal of the heavy ground-based missiles from 308 to 154, but Secretary of State James Baker tentatively agreed in talks May 16-19 in Moscow to permit some new flight tests.

Yugoslav leader warns of civil war

BELGRADE, May 28, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's communist President Boris Jovic today called for a new constitution, saying it would help stabilise the crisis-ridden country and prevent civil war.

Jovic painted a picture of nationwide chaos and said the Balkan federation could explode into violence and tear itself apart, in a state-of-the union speech to Parliament two weeks after taking office.

He said the presidency would organise talks enabling the six republics to settle

differences, and outlined 13 measures to help prevent nationalism and conflict between Yugoslavia's many ethnic groups from increasing.

But he dismissed fears that he would impose a state of emergency or annul the results of free elections which have ended 45 years of communist rule in the wealthy and relatively Westernised republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

The Yugoslav constitution does not specifically provide for the polls held by the two republics, and Jovic has made clear

he believes they are pushing the country towards disintegration.

"Violations of the constitution and law have reached such proportions that they threaten certain vital functions of the state and bring into question the realisation of the social reforms we have begun," Jovic told Parliament.

"The coming to power of extreme right-wing and revanchist forces would create great difficulties. This could lead to civil war and open the possibility of foreign military intervention."

Jovic said Parliament should adopt plans by Prime Minister Ante Markovic's government to amend the Yugoslav constitution and then draw up the first entirely new constitution since 1974.

"The Yugoslav presidency believes the political activity involved in creating a new constitution should be intensified and speeded up," he said.

Jovic, a Serb, became first among equals in the eight-man collective state presidency on May 15 by annual rotation.



Casts her vote

An invalid woman casts her vote from a wheelchair in local elections in Warsaw, May 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Walesa helps avert strike

WARSAW, May 28, (Reuters): Lech Walesa saved the Solidarity-led government from a national rail strike crisis today but many voters signalled apathy towards Poland's new democracy by staying away from landmark local elections.

Walesa persuaded strike leaders late last night to suspend the protest — in support of a 20 per cent pay claim — which had cut rail access to all Poland's ports and thrown down the most serious challenge yet to the government.

His intervention came just in time to stop the strike, centred mainly in northern Poland, from spreading across the country with a 90-minute national warning strike today and an all-out freight stoppage from Tuesday night.

The Solidarity chairman averted the threat of a head-on confrontation between workers and the government that threatened to jeopardise the country's painful economic recovery programme.

Walesa, who had earlier warned the strike could lead to anarchy and civil war, said it reflected the economic hardship faced by working people.

"On our road to democracy, there are various dangerous bends. The railwaymen's protest was one of them," the Solidarity chairman told reporters.

"Everyone must draw lessons and conclusions from this. Too many groups in Polish society have it tough because hardship is not shared out equally. The government and all trade unions should look carefully at the problems of working people."

The strike lasted just over a week and overshadowed yesterday's local elections. Poland's first fully-free nationwide vote for more than half a century and the first since Solidarity replaced the communists in power last year.

Only 42 per cent bothered to cast their ballots in the landmark elections to local councils that will take over the administration of towns, villages and cities from the state.

Some commentators said the low turnout reflected disillusionment with the hardship brought on by the government's reforms.

Real wages have been slashed by a third since the austerity package was launched on January 1, industrial output has plunged by 30 per cent and 400,000 people have been thrown out of work.

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, beginning a two-day visit to France today, told the daily Ouest-France newspaper that Poland urgently needed relief on its \$38 billion foreign debt to keep its reforms on track.

Aoun frees 30 rival prisoners

Tension eases in East Beirut

BEIRUT, May 28, (Agencies): Christian military leader Gen. Michel Aoun yesterday freed 30 rival Lebanese Forces militiamen taken prisoner during four months of a fierce power struggle between the two warring factions, officials said.

The officials said the prisoners, who were held at cells on the eastern outskirts of East Beirut, were accompanied to militia-patrolled areas by a Red Cross convoy.

Their release was the result of intensive goodwill efforts by Pope John Paul II, who appealed to the rivals last week to stop fighting for control of the Christian enclave.

The Pope's appeal came one day after Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente announced a five-point agreement, approved by the two sides, to end the fighting in Beirut's Christian enclave. He said the agreement was only a partial solution, however.

At least 700 members of Samir Geagea's militia remain in Aoun's prisons, political sources said. They said Geagea's militia has captured about 1,000 troops of Aoun's army.

Aoun and Geagea have been locked in a fierce struggle for control of the 310-square-mile (800 sq) Christian enclave in Lebanon since Jan 31. The fighting has left more than 1,000 people dead and 3,740 others wounded.

Some 200,000 Christians have fled the fighting in the enclave, with many seeking refuge and a stable future for their children in Canada and Europe.

Officials said a number of schools, encouraged by a truce mediated earlier this month by Iraq, planned to resume classes throughout the battered Christian region today.

More than 100 schools have been destroyed or damaged and more than 100,000 students have been affected by the violence.

Militia officials started organising makeshift schools for children just last week out of fears the violence would drag on.

Puente said the weekend agreement calls for a permanent truce, reopening schools, the release of all prisoners and the suspension of the rival's war of wits.

The papal initiative came as Syria and Iraq appeared competing to boost their influence in the inter-Christian struggle.

Israeli soldiers shot dead a commando in their self-declared security zone in south Lebanon today, security sources said.

The sources had no further details on the clash in the Salhani area.

Saleh pledge Neutral Yemen

KUWAIT, May 28, (Kuna): President of the newly united Republic of Yemen Ali Abdallah Saleh has underlined that the foreign policy of the infant state would adhere to the principles on non-alignment, indicating that all agreements signed by each country before the merger would be honoured.

In two separate interviews with Kuwaiti dailies Saleh said the declaration on the Yemeni unification has stipulated commitment to all agreements signed unilaterally by each party. He added that if any of those agreements were prompted by certain pre-unity reasons, then it would be an internal affair of the new state which it would handle along with other issues resulting from division.

Asked on whether the Soviet perestroika or the winds of change that swept Eastern Europe recently had accelerated the declaration of unity, President Saleh said the Yemeni unity was not an offshoot of this or that, saying it was a result of 20 years of dialogue.

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Ceasefire on

A Christian mother carries her son and walks past devastated cars in a street in battered East Beirut May 28. Rival Christian forces halted fighting after four months of heavy battles.

Antall wants to boost Arab ties

Massacre denounced

BUDAPEST, May 28, (Kuna): Hungarian Prime Minister, Jozsef Antall, has expressed his country's desire to boost its relations with all Arab countries and denounced Israel's massacre of eight Palestinian workers in the occupied territories last week.

In an interview with Kuna, Antall underlined the role played by Kuwait to develop Hungarian-Arab relations particularly in the economic field, indicating that Kuwait was among the first Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with his country.

He expressed hope that Kuwait investments would increase in all sectors in Hungary, indicating that his government will continue its contacts with Kuwait to expand trade and economic co-operation relation.

On the resettlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, Antall, who came to office 10 days ago, said that he discussed this issue recently with the Arab ambassadors accredited to Hungary.

He noted that Hungary wishes to pursue "a balanced policy" between Israel and the Arabs, noting that his country hopes to maintain contacts and relations with both sides.

"I know that this policy does not satisfy the Arabs but they (the Arabs) should understand Hungary's problems," said Antall in the interview.

He expressed his full understanding for the Arab position from the conflict in the Middle East, stressing that Hungary pursues a balanced policy and that its relations with Israel would not be at the expense of its relations with the Arab countries.

The Hungarian premier denounced last week's massacre of Palestinian workers in the occupied territories and expressed his country's readiness to support in dispatching international force to protect Palestinian civilians "if the United Nations has decided to take such an initiative."

PFLP to launch party in Jordan

AMMAN, May 28, (Reuters): A radical Palestinian group, once a sworn enemy of Jordan's Hashemite monarchy, is to found a political party in the kingdom, an official of the group said today.

He said leaders of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) agreed the move after lengthy talks with their supporters in Jordan.

The official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters the party would be officially proclaimed at a meeting of the PFLP Central Committee in Damascus next month.

Two decades ago the PFLP was urging the overthrow of King Hussein. Its hijacking of four airliners helped spark "Black September", a bloody war between Palestinian fighters and Jordanian troops in 1970.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran has met PFLP politburo members Tayseer Qubaa and Azmi Khawaja in the first meeting between the government and the faction since then.

The Syrian-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, like the PFLP a part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, set up the Jordan People's Democratic Party in July.

The PFLP official said there was no final agreement yet on his party's name.

"It will be a pan-Arabist party, will seek guidance from Marxism and Leninism and will be open for anyone to join, be he a Jordanian or a Palestinian," he said.

The new party would be independent from Damascus, work within the constitution and seek to promote unity among Jordanians, many of whom are of Palestinian origin.

King Hussein has promised his three million people a national charter leading to some sort of multi-party system. A royal commission is now working on details.

Amman has not yet lifted the ban imposed since 1957 on political parties. But it allowed people known to be members of political groups to contest the November elections.

Jordan's 1988 disengagement from the Israeli-held West Bank and its recognition of a Palestinian state met the demands of many radical PLO groups, including the PFLP.

A Syria-based Palestinian group has urged the Arab summit to give more money for an anti-Israeli uprising and seek a UN observer force for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a letter to Arab leaders, the DFLP said they should review their ties to the United States as long as it failed to recognise the PLO as sole representative of Palestinians.

Turkey jail break

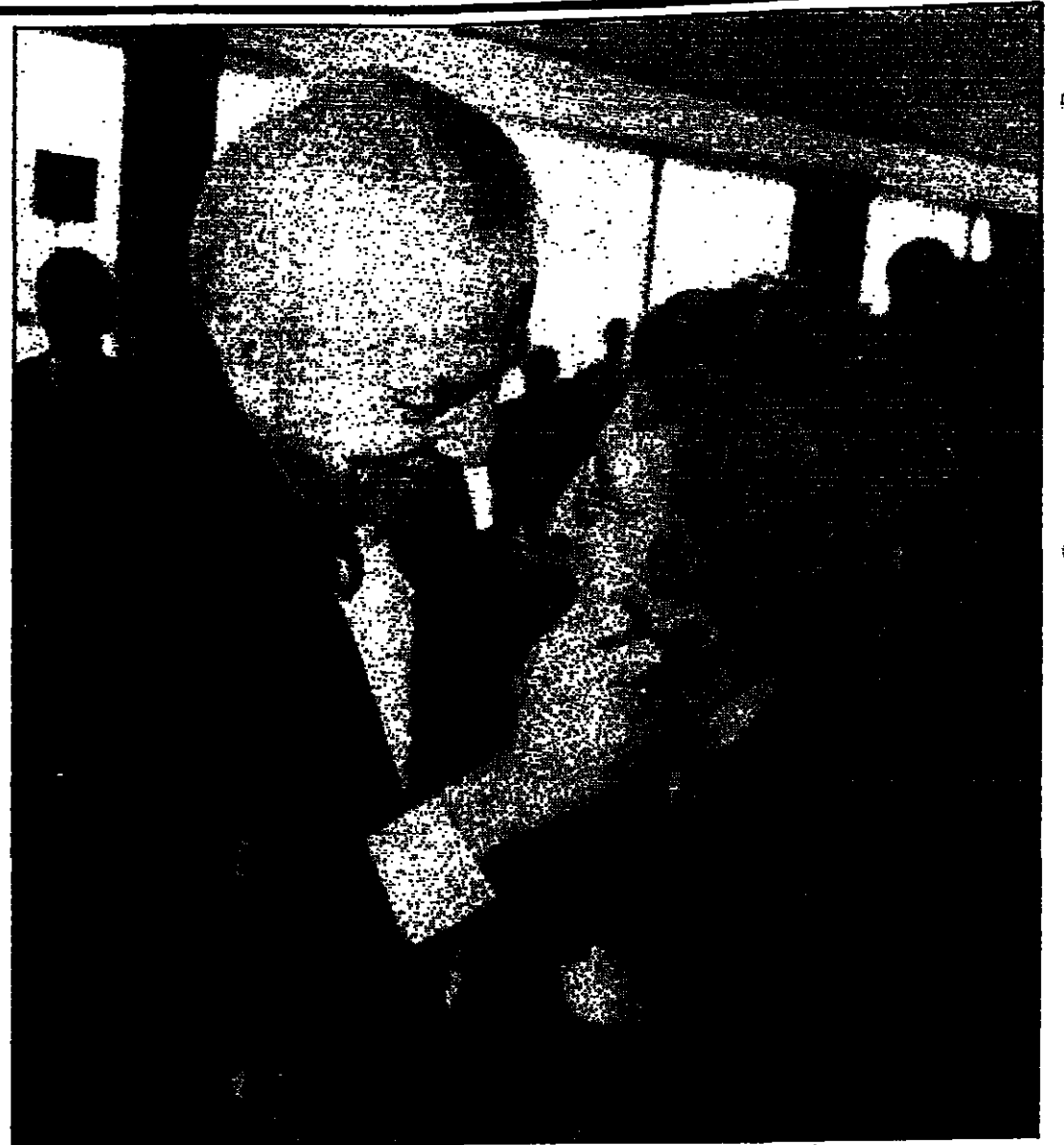
ISTANBUL, May 28, (Reuters): Five left-wing militants escaped today from a jail in a residential area on the outskirts of Istanbul, prison officials said.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency said two of the escapees were under sentence of death for the killing of former Prime Minister Nihat Erim.

They had also been found guilty of attempted murder and a series of robberies and bombings, it said.

The escape was discovered after the father of one of the militants arrived to visit his son and he was found to be missing.

Prison officials said a widespread search was launched and a watch was being kept on airports, bus stations and ferry terminals.



Reed greets his mother, Leota Reed Aprague, 91, upon his arrival at Logan airport, May 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reed feels elated

Hostages on his mind

BOSTON, May 28, (UPI): Although clearly elated during an emotional reunion with his 91-year-old mother in his native state, former hostage Frank Reed continued his passionate advocacy for the captives he left behind in Lebanon.

Reed saw his mother yesterday for the first time since he left Boston in 1982, but used the Memorial Day weekend celebration to again remember "mates" who he says are not faring well in captivity.

"This weekend, we are memorialising the dead that fought for our country. Let us hope that one day we don't have to have a day to memorialise the hostages that are dead, or will die," Reed said.

"Let's not forget that there are still six Americans still in captivity, and the news is not good as far as I'm concerned. The hostages are not well."

Reed said he felt an "obligation, a duty" to them, and said he was "worrying about my mates that I left behind." His attorney, Bob Woolf, abruptly ended the news conference when reporters pressed the former hostage for more information on the other captives' plight.

More than 50 people turned out at Logan International Airport on a sunny day to welcome back the 57-year-old educator, who was held hostage for 44 months before being freed April 30. Many applauded as he emerged from the plane.

"I want to say I love you, Boston, and I love all of you for coming out to see me," said Reed, after crouching to whisper to and embrace his mother for several minutes.

"How can you ever forget a mother? Mothers are always great," he said. "She looks lovely, my mother. My mother's a tough gal."

"I say rejoice, give thanks. He's back," said Leota Sprague, who was in a wheelchair to greet her son. "I

feel as good as can be. I'm just so thankful for the day, for the sunshine."

Reed was kidnapped in West Beirut on Sept. 9, 1986. He had moved to Lebanon in 1977 and worked at the University of Beirut before founding the Lebanese International School. He converted to Islam to marry his Syrian-born wife, Fahimeh.

"It's just like a long-lost friend coming home. I brought the kids, it's so exciting," said John Ferguson, who said he worked briefly as a salesman with Reed 15 years ago.

Reed said he expected to spend time "enjoying Boston, enjoying my family" during his three-day visit, before returning Wednesday to a hospital outside Washington.

Dressed in a dark suit, Reed said he had weighed just 133 pounds (60 kg), down from 185 (85 kg), when he was released from captivity, and said he had been "severely malnourished" during the ordeal.

"What we've been doing, basically, as far as my health goes, is trying to do some medical sleuthing, trying to find out some things, why I am so severely anemic," he said.

"In spite of it all, they say my heart is fine. My lungs are fine. My liver's fine. I'm still feisty, still try to be as tough as I can about a few things."

"I'm not going to spend four years in captivity and come out and have something happen here. I hope."

Woolf said the ex-hostage has gained 18 pounds (8 kg) since being freed and shot a 41 over nine holes of golf in Maryland.

A motorcade with four limousines took Reed and his family, including his wife, to his daughter's home in suburban Malden for a lobster dinner and family reunion.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Doctors flushing out drugs: Doctors at a suburban hospital were helping nature produce the evidence on Monday from 13 Nigerians arrested for allegedly swallowing containers of heroin in a smuggling scheme.

Two pregnant women were among the five women and eight men intercepted on Sunday night at Cairo International Airport after a flight from Bangkok, Thailand. Police said they swallowed the illegal narcotics in capsules and plastic tubes.

A western narcotics expert estimated the haul at 10 kilograms (22 pounds) representing a street value in the United States of close to \$2 million. Newspaper reports placed the size of the cache at twice that. (AP)

Militants attack: Militants equipped with petrol bombs ambushed a police van in Upper Egypt and injured four police officers, a Cairo newspaper said.

The militants threw two bombs at a van carrying 10 officers in Qena governorate on Saturday, but only one exploded, an early edition of Monday's newspaper Al-Akhar reported. (Reuters)

Drug smuggling: An Egyptian criminal court on Sunday sentenced two Jordanians to life in prison at hard labour for drug smuggling and acquitted eight others of similar charges.

Among the eight acquitted are Jacob Mezrahi, and Israeli, Lebanese-born naturalised American Kayed Bero and his father, Mohammed Hussein Bero, a Lebanese.

The three, on the loose, were sentenced in absentia to death last June in a case involving 19 alleged drug smugglers, but their appeal has been accepted by the court of cassation and the case is to be retried next month. (AP)

End Jewish racism: Amos Oz, one of Israel's most respected novelists, has called for Palestinian statehood and an end to "Jewish racism."

He also called for Palestinian restraint after the "monstrous, mad massacre" of Palestinians two weeks ago.

Oz, delivering a speech to an Israeli "Peace Now" gathering in Jerusalem on Saturday night, said:

"The tragic status quo between ourselves and the Palestinians... was shattered by the PLO's implied recognition of Israel. Everybody knows this; even those (Israelis) who stubbornly refuse to know it in their heart of hearts."

"From this shattered status quo we may not retreat back to the Arab effort to exterminate Israel — or to the Israeli repression of the Palestinians." (Kuna)

MP calls for action to defuse tension

LONDON, May 28, (Kuna): A British MP has called today for urgent action to defuse racial tension in the UK after renewed violence erupted in the northern city of Bradford over the Salman Rushdie affair.

Opposition Labour Party MP for Bradford West Max Maddon said he planned to introduce a bill in Parliament to make incitement to religious hatred an offence throughout the country.

This followed a demonstration in the city yesterday in which 16 youths were arrested and three injured during a demonstration against Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses".

Maddon called on the Indian-born author to apologise for the offence caused to Muslims by his novel and to cancel the paperback version.

He said the UK government should repeal the current law of blasphemy, which applies only to Christianity, putting in its place a new law making incitement to religious hatred an offence.

Meanwhile, Muslim leaders in Bradford have called a halt to public marches and demonstrations over Salman Rushdie because they believe public rallies are "too vulnerable to provocateurs and others looking for trouble".

Sher Azam, president of the Bradford council of mosques told the UK media that people outside the Muslim community were doing their best to disrupt the protests, "so for the time being we are suspending all outdoor demonstrations."

Arab leaders misunderstood US stance

Baker favours UN probe team

NEW YORK, May 28, (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday he wanted the United Nations to dispatch an investigative team to the Israeli occupied territories but denied that he favoured sending Security Council observers to the violence-torn areas.

In a television interview, Baker said Arab leaders must have "misunderstood" the US position when they believed Washington supported Palestine Liberation Organisation demands for a Security Council observer team in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker angered Israel last week when he

said Washington was willing to consider sending UN observers to the occupied territories, where 22 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded in unrest since an Israeli gunman killed seven Arab workers near Tel Aviv on May 20.

"The position we took... was that we would support an investigative mission sent by the secretary general of the United Nations, to go check on the situation in the territories and report back," Baker said.

"That was our position yesterday and the day before yesterday. It will be our position when the United Nations Security Council reconvenes in New York next

week and we hope that the government of Israel will support that position."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat urged the UN Security Council meeting in Geneva on Friday and Saturday to send UN observers to the occupied areas. The United States voted against Security Council involvement.

Asked about claims from Arab leaders that he had agreed to send a mission from the Security Council to the occupied territories, where Palestinians have been waging an anti-Israeli uprising for the past 29 months, Baker said:

"They must have misunderstood because that was not the policy action and decision we took in the State Department."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a television interview yesterday, meanwhile ruled out allowing any UN observers into the territories, saying they would only raise tensions and harm prospects for peace.

UN observers "will bring only tensions. We don't need foreign military men to police the country, the area. We need peaceful talks. That only," Shamir said.

Call for resignation rejected

Peres wants another chance

OCCUPIED, Jerusalem, May 28, (Reuters): Israel's Labour Party has blamed its leader Shimon Peres for losing the last election but he says he wants another chance.

Peres, 66, has not won an election in 13 years as Labour Party leader. He was chastised for the 1988 result in a party inquiry made public yesterday.

"To speak openly and simply, the basic assumption of the campaign was that Peres was the electoral asset and the party was the liability," party rival Yitzhak Rabin said.

"This concept was proven incorrect and given expression in the election results," Rabin, a 68-year-old former defence minister, told reporters.

Peres told his 1,300-member central committee that any other politician would have fared as poorly because religious parties holding the balance of power had abandoned Labour long before he took over the leadership.

After elections in 1988, Labour joined as junior partner in a unity government with hardline Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, 74, who sacked Peres in March in a row over peace moves. Other Labour ministers then walked out of the government.

His voice cracking, Peres rejected the call of one speaker for his resignation by saying: "You are not my judge. My judge is this group."

Labour brought down the 15-month unity government over Likud's refusal to accept US proposals for the first-ever peace talks with Palestinians in Israeli-occupied lands.

Peres failed to form an alternative dovish cabinet. Shamir is trying to form a narrow rightist coalition, but politicians will not rule out the possibility that the two men will ultimately join in another unity government.

On US television yesterday, Shamir played down reports of tensions with Washington, Israel's closest ally, over stalled peace efforts and a surge of violence in the occupied lands.

In Baghdad, Iraq's campaign for support against Israel and the West fell short of its target yesterday when at least five heads of state failed to show up for an Arab summit meeting.

Latest: Israel's Parliament, responding to widespread public disgust at recent political horse-trading, took a small step towards reform today.

It approved on first reading four bills providing for the direct election of a prime minister and other electoral changes. The bills are likely to be delayed in committee before returning to the house for mandatory second and third readings.

Profile

30 years promoting Arab cause in US
Activist Mehdi

NEW YORK, May 28, (AP): In his 30 years as an activist for Arab-Islamic causes in America, Mohammad T. Mehdi has been jailed after burning an Israeli flag, had his back broken in a beating and seen his office burned.

But those were darker days. Now, Mehdi believes that by the end of the decade there will be changes in US attitudes toward Arabs and Muslims, as well as changes in US policy in the Middle East.

"Thirty years ago, the word Arab was a nasty word in the American vocabulary," Mehdi said prior to a recent banquet held by friends and associates to recognize his three decades as an activist.

But last year, for the first time, a contingent of Muslims was invited to a presidential inaugural worship service, he said. And recently, Mehdi was asked by New York mayor David Dinkins to attend a meeting of various community leaders — another first, he said.

When Mehdi began his work, only a fraction of Americans agreed with the Arab side on such issues as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said. But that was before the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and before the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which brought nightly images of violence to US television screens, including Palestinian children shot by troops' bullets.

A Washington Post-ABC news poll about a year ago indicated that seven out of 10 Americans believed Israel should negotiate directly with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. It also showed that six out of 10 Americans had a favourable view of Israel, compared with four out of 10 four months earlier during a peak of news coverage on the uprising.

One factor bearing on Americans' views is that there are thousands of new immigrants from the Third World, including many from Muslim countries.

"America is no longer a Judeo-Christian society any more than it is an Anglo-Saxon society," Mehdi said.

With the number of Muslims growing, and with their ties to some 1 billion Muslims around the world, Mehdi sees a mushrooming political force.

"American Muslims are the link," he said.

Mehdi believes that the turn in the Cold War, which had cast Israel in the role of vital anti-communist ally to the United States, will lead to the down-grading of US-Israeli ties.

"For years everyone swore by Chiang Kai-Shek as the bulwark of democracy against communism in the Far East. Today, hardly anyone knows who he is," Mehdi said of the late Chinese Nationalist leader of Taiwan, then commonly known as Formosa.

"Israel is the Formosa of the Middle East," Mehdi said.

Mehdi, who was born in Iraq, came to the United States in 1948 for postgraduate study at the University of California at Berkeley, where he took a doctorate degree in American constitutional law.

Friends from those days remember him as a radical with a long shock of black hair, always ready to debate. They recall his deep convictions, and optimism.

Today, the hair is thinning and graying, but Mehdi is still optimistic. He believes there will be a Palestinian state and peace in the Middle East within his lifetime.

His activism, he said, stemmed from his belief in America's "open society."

"There has been an obsession of mine — a love affair — with the first amendment" to the US constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and religion.

Growing up in Iraq, Mehdi did not have the freedom to express opinion.

"I was born in Baghdad, but I was reborn in Berkeley," he said.

Yet Mehdi found restrictions on speech in America when the subject was Palestine and the stance was pro-Arab. He showed up for a radio talk show in California once to find that the programme was cancelled because a Jewish leader refused to appear with him.

One dead, 9 injured in Jerusalem blast

Fatah uprising claims responsibility

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 28, (Agencies): A pipebomb exploded today in a Jerusalem market crowded with holiday shoppers, killing an elderly man and wounding nine other Jews, police said.

Police rounded up 87 Arab suspects after the explosion, which occurred at about 12:30 pm (0930 GMT) in the Mahane Yehuda market, which is the main Jewish market in Jerusalem.

Ten people were taken to hospitals for treatment and two were later released. Shimon Cohen, 72, died nearly six hours after the attack at Sha'arei Zedek Hospital, police said.

The bus was badly damaged and the person who planted the bomb evaded capture, he said.

Israeli police described the device as a pipebomb and said it was concealed in a drinks stand in the market.

A crowd of about 200 angry shoppers gathered near the scene, and dozens of Israelis tried to attack young Palestinians who were detained by police, shouting "death to the Arabs" and "burn them, burn them."

In one incident, a crowd of about 25 Israelis surrounded a police van and pounded on the vehicle in an effort to get at one Arab who had been detained.

However, in other cases, Israeli stall owners sheltered Arab workers from the wrath of the crowd.

Stones were also hurled at journalists and one photographer was taken to a hospital after being punched and kicked by three watermelon vendors.

"We will not allow any acts of revenge," vowed police commissioner Yaakov Turner on Israeli radio.

At the police station near the market, a reporter saw three border policemen armed with rifles standing guard over eight young Palestinians. The Arabs were kneeling and facing a wall.

The bombing occurred about 12 noon (0900 GMT) as Israelis shopped for fruit and vegetables for the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, or the feast of weeks, which starts tomorrow evening. Shavuot is a harvest festival and marks the day when ancient Israelites received the Ten Commandments.

Israeli politicians linked the bombing to the Arab summit which started in the Iraqi capital, today.

"I think that whoever planted that bomb in the market was signalling to those meeting in Baghdad," said Yossi Ben Aharon, a top aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

A visiting French minister said yesterday that Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories had reached a point of despair that could lead to worse violence in coming weeks.

Bernard Kouchner, secretary of state for humanitarian aid, gave the assessment in summing a four-day tour of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a meeting with Shamir.

"I felt tension and desperation that I have never previously experienced. I felt a very deep despair which can lead to even more serious confrontations in the coming days and weeks," he told a news conference.

Kouchner, sent by President Francois Mitterrand after a new wave of violence in the occupation zone, said Arab hospitals were overwhelmed by the number of wounded and complained that troops were preventing ambulances from evacuating casualties.

Some 200 people have started a hunger strike in the diplomatic mission of the PLO in Budapest to protest Israel's actions against Palestinians, the state news agency MTI reported.

A number of Jews last Saturday attacked two Italian youth in Rome after participating in demonstration in solidarity with Palestine.

The two Italians were beaten badly and one of them was taken to hospital.

A human rights group monitoring the occupied territories has issued a report saying the army's decisions on lifting curfews were "arbitrary" and did not allow Palestinians to stockpile enough food.

A radical Palestinian group claimed responsibility today for the explosion.

Abdel-Hadi Nashash, spokesman for Fatah Uprising, said in a statement a group member based in the Israeli-occupied territories had planted a time-bomb in a bus and set it off in the market.

"The high-explosive timed-device was planted by one of our fighters in one of the public buses in Jerusalem. The bomb exploded on time when the bus was passing through a food market," Nashash said.



An Israeli man wounded in the May 28 market pipe bombing is carried into an ambulance after the attack occurred. The man's shirt is soaked in blood. (Reuters wirephoto)

Funds for old city settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 28, (Reuters): An Israeli parliamentary panel today retroactively approved the government's \$1.8 million financing of a controversial Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's old city.

Right-wing and religious parliamentarians defeated the Labour Party and its leftist allies to win the vote 13 to 11, a finance committee spokesman said.

The establishment last month of the settlement by 150 religious Jews in a hospice owned by the Greek Orthodox patriarchate sparked an international outcry. The church claimed the lease had been bought illegally.

The government admitted 11 days after the settlers moved in that the Housing Ministry had paid \$1.8 million to a Panamanian front company to help finance the deal.

All but 20 of the settlers were ordered by a court to vacate the hospice pending a ruling on the legality of the deal.

Photographs of the Arab victims of a deranged Israeli gunman greeted visitors to the courtyard of Occupied Jerusalem's Red Cross building where Palestinian leaders are on indefinite hunger strike.

The hunger strikers — men and women of varying ages — seize on foreign visitors to tell the story of their struggle for a Palestinian state and their drive to end Israel's 23-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The 50 fasting Palestinians, though outraged, do not deny that the bloody attack by Ami Popper on

Bahrain receives F-16 jet fighters

Sheikh Hamad inspects

MANAMA, May 28, (AP): The Deputy Amir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa today inspected newly arrived F-16 jet fighters and said they would contribute to the Arab world's growth in military prowess, the official news agency reported.

"The Arab nation will regain its natural place among the nations of the world by God's will and by force of the efforts being exerted in the field of modern science and technology," Sheikh Hamad said.

"It will not be easy, as (it was) in the past, for the enemies of this nation to flout their potentials at will," he said in the statement distributed by the Gulf News Agency.

"Technological superiority will not remain a monopoly of some to exercise hegemony over those lagging behind," he said.

Bahrain has 16 of the F-16 jet fighters on order, and the first batch believed to be four, recently were flown from the United

States by US-trained Bahraini pilots.

Official confirmation of their arrival appeared timed to coincide with the opening of the emergency Arab summit conference in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad where focus is on perceived Israeli threats to the Arab world.

Sheikh Hamad, who is the commander in chief of Bahrain defence force, is the crown prince and acting ruler while the Amir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, takes part in the summit.

Sheikh Hamad also affirmed that "the Bahraini Air Force is an indivisible part of the defence policy of the Gulf Cooperation Council."

Until 1985, Bahrain had no fixed-winged aircraft at all.

The small central Gulf island state, a close friend of the United States, is the first among the GCC states to have the F-16s.

Najib bids peace talks

KABUL, May 28, (UPI): President Najibullah announced today he has sent proposals for ending the Afghan civil war, including a new offer of a nationwide referendum, to the US and Soviet presidents for consideration at their forthcoming summit.

"I once again propose that the government is ready to hold talks with any opposition group inside or outside the country," Najibullah said in his inaugural speech to a grand tribal assembly, known as a Loya Jirgah, which is expected to approve changes in the constitution.

The president renewed his proposal for ending the 12-year-old war through a "cooling-off period" and a ceasefire prior to peace negotiations and UN-monitored elections.

But this time he also offered to hold "a referendum or plebiscite on the need for a ceasefire. He said stoppage of the war under UN supervision in regions controlled by the government or those under the control of the opposition as well as in Afghan refugee camps."

"This referendum would facilitate the commencement of talks among the concerned parties on the one hand, and would pave the way for UN humanitarian aid in various parts of the country and for future elections planned in the transition period, on the other," Najibullah said, according to an official translation of his speech in the Pashto language.

He said he has sent the revised proposals to President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "so that they can take them into consideration" at Wednesday's superpower summit in Washington.

There was no immediate reaction to the offer from Afghan resistance leaders based in Pakistan, but the rebels have rejected all previous peace proposals by the Kabul government and have refused to negotiate or share power with members of Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The rebels, who are based mostly in Pakistan and backed by the United States and Saudi Arabia, have had little military success despite the February 1989 withdrawal of Soviet troops jacking the government.

Najibullah, meanwhile, has defied Western predictions of his swift overthrow following the Soviet pullout.

Washington and Moscow have reportedly narrowed their differences on Afghanistan recently, and the United States earlier this year dropped its insistence that Najibullah step down prior to the start of any peace negotiations.

However, Najibullah has rejected US calls he transfer power to an interim government prior to any elections.

Najibullah opened a grand tribal assembly today with a call for an international conference to end a civil war that has torn Afghanistan for 12 years.

Addressing a long-awaited Loya Jirgah, a traditional tribal assembly, Najibullah said the international conference should discuss external aspects of the Afghan war and include all countries directly or indirectly involved with the conflict.

their hunger strike.

Braving sweltering heat yesterday, about 100 activists temporarily joined the ranks of the 50 fasting Palestinians lying on mattresses beneath a canopy outside the Red Cross building.

Foreign visitors have included Western diplomats and a Soviet delegation visiting the occupied territories. There have also been some Jewish peace activists and hordes of journalists.

The hunger strikers have demanded a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, an indepen-

dent investigation of Israeli practices and international protection for the territories.

"Our first demand has already been met...now we are in the second stage," said Palestinian activist Faisal Al Hussein, referring to a meeting of the Security Council at the weekend.

The council held a special two-day session in Geneva to allow Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat to speak. It considered his request to send UN observers to the occupied territories but delayed any action.

Baath scores victory

DAMASCUS, May 28, (AP): The ruling Baath Party won 134 seats in elections for Syria's 250-member Parliament, Interior Minister Mohammed Harba announced yesterday.

Five leftist parties allied with the Baath in the National Progressive Front won a total of 32. About two-thirds of the seats were allocated for the Front. Independents won 84 seats.

Harba said 21 women were among those elected to parliamentary seats.

The Parliament is the fifth to be elected under the rule of President Hafez Al Assad, who is also the Baath Party leader, since Assad came to power in a military coup in 1970.

The number of seats in the Parliament was expanded in this election to 250 from the former 195.

Harba earlier called this a bid to "ensure the largest representation of the people, especially that about one-third of the seats are for independents."

Turnout in the election was 60 per cent of eligible voters resident in Syria, Harba said. A total of 9,765 candidates competed for the 250 seats.

Informed sources outside Syria, commenting on the election, say Assad's firm grip on the reins of power is unchanged.

Prominent among the winners were Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, chairwoman of the Syrian Women Union Bashira Al Makni and Jameel Al-Assad, the brother of Syrian leader.

Hydrographic survey charts Kuwaiti waters

Estimated cost KD 2 million

SEVERAL locations in Kuwait's territorial waters pose a great danger to boats and other areas are considered hazardous to swimmers which prompted the Ministry of Communications to conduct a comprehensive survey to indicate these locations at sea and provide safe and secure navigational paths.

The head of the Marine Transportation Projects section, Ali Ahmad, indicated that the ministry distributed guide posts along with navigational lights from the far north of Oaha Island to the deepest south of the Kuwaiti territorial waters at Umm

Al Maradim Island.

Meanwhile, director of the technical affairs department at the Ministry of Communications, Engineer Nabeel Mulla Husain said that the survey conducted included the printing of 66,000 marine maps and cost an estimated KD 2 million.

He said that the project yielded good results and supported studies and researches conducted by other government authorities. He stressed on the importance of the hydrographic survey of the territorial waters in measuring the depth of water at all locations and drawing marine maps

used by sailors.

He pointed out that six boats took part in the survey project, the main boat was 125 feet long working round the hour at deeper locations, in addition to five other boats 27 feet long each for shallow waters. He indicated that all boats were fully prepared and equipped with advanced survey devices and computers to store data collected.

He added that hundreds of samples were collected during the survey to test the soil at different locations. In addition to these samples the project included survey works

for nearly 112 marine obstacles.

He said that the technical affairs department will in the near future seek to train Kuwaiti youths on surveying, hoping to establish a Kuwaiti hydrographic office.

Meanwhile, head of the Marine Transportation Project section, Ali Ahmad said that the ministry is currently studying a project to modernise the old Failaka port. The project will include deepening the port and building a channel to the southern exit, in addition to restoring the port sides. He stated that the project also comprises building administration offices.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Area evaluation

KUWAIT Municipality is currently involved in a comprehensive evaluation of all the commercial areas at Al Jahra Governorate, the daily Al Seyassah reported.

Meanwhile, the daily learnt that the municipality affairs committee agreed to reorganise Block No. 41 at Al Jahra Area in addition to discussing the possibility of expropriating the real estate situated in the north western area of Al Jahra, in addition to completion of the relevant procedures for distributing some plots at the governorate.

On the other hand, the committee agreed in principle to allocate an adequate area for the Al Khairan Resort project. Additionally, the committee at the request of Al Jahra Governor, Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah agreed to build four pedestrian flyovers at Al Jahra Express Road, Al Bakri Street, Al Araf area and Bishr Bin Abi Awanath Street — opposite of Al Jahra Hospital.

Summit effort

BAGHDAD, May 28. (Kuna): A Kuwaiti official yesterday said here that the Arab emergency summit, will differ from other summits and will work on making the Arab nation capable of repelling aggressions.

Abdel Hamid Al Baijan, director of Arab department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added that the present time is the most delicate stage of world's history.

Baijan, who is a member of the Kuwaiti delegation to the Arab summit led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, pointed out to the importance of the summit during the time.

He praised the Iraqi concern and efforts at all levels to hold the summit.

Haj call

JEDDAH, May 28. (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid Al Gabid, yesterday called on the OIC member states to co-operate fully with Saudi Arabia to ensure the success of haj season late next month.

"I call upon them (Muslims) to respect the generous hospitality offered to them by the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia," said Gabid in a message to Muslims on the occasion of the haj season.

Gabid also called on Muslims to avoid all actions "liable to perturb the peace and security of pilgrims and abstain from any dispute or demonstrations incompatible with the known rites of haj such as have always been practiced."

"Islam teaches discipline, love and brotherhood," said Gabid. "I hope that they arrive to this holy land full of fervour and perform their religious duties with the kind humility, dignity and respect in keeping with the solemn and sacred nature of the event and places."

Omani minister

RIYADH, May 28. (Kuna): Oman's Trade and Industry Minister Saleem Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali arrived here yesterday and conferred with Saudi officials on ways to strengthen trade exchange between his country and the kingdom, an official source said.

Ghazali met with his Saudi counterpart Suleiman Al Salim and Electricity Minister Abdul Aziz Al Zamel.

The talks in the two separate meetings centred on economic co-operation between Muscat and Riyadh and preparations for the meeting next month of a committee co-ordinating such co-operation among the six GCC countries, the source said.

Agreement signed

TEHRAN, May 28. (Kuna): Iran and Qatar have signed a memorandum of understanding in Qatar to strengthen co-operation between them in the fields of agriculture and trade, Radio Tehran announced.

According to the radio, the memorandum was signed by Iranian Agriculture Minister Isa Kalantari and Qatar's Agriculture Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani.

Kuwaiti family in transition...

Changing values

Special Report

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff



Dr Najat Al Mutawa



Hamad Al Suaidan



Fadel Khalaf



Sheikhha Al Zahem

"LISTEN to what I'm going to tell you my daughter. Your God is one, your grave is one and your husband is one. Mohammed Sal-man asked for your hand in marriage and you are going to marry him."

This is what Umm Fatima's father told her one afternoon more than 33 years ago when she was seventeen. She obediently obliged. The word "no" was not in a girl's vocabulary when talking to her father.

A lot has changed in the Kuwaiti family since then, not only in decision-making and relationships among its members, but also in the family's composition and function. The accelerated change mainly caused by the oil boom was inevitable.

"The Kuwaiti family today is neither the extended family it used to be nor the isolated nuclear family of the West. It is a transitional family which has features of both," says Dr Fadel Al Nasser of the Sociology Department at Kuwait University.

Nasser explains that although the Kuwaiti family today mostly consists of a couple and their children, their ties with their own families remain extremely strong. "They still visit their families very often, get together on Fridays and leave the kids with grandparents, aunts or uncles."

More and more young couples are opting for their own apartments or houses, but a number of them still find it more convenient to live with parents or in-laws.

Umm Fatima loves the feeling of closeness living in an extended family provides. Before she got married, she used to live in a 6-room house in Hawalli with her mother, father, her father's second wife and her brothers and sisters.

Haya (not her real name), her 26-year-old daughter who is expecting her first baby soon, also has no qualms about living with her in-laws. "I had the choice when I was married to have my own house or live with them. I chose to live with them because I could not cook or run a household. I also have a job that keeps me busy all morning."

Haya's younger sister, Hissa (not her real name) who is 19 does not agree with her. "I would rather live on my own because I don't like living with people I don't really know. I like to have lunch or go out whenever I want without having to answer to anybody."

But although Hissa sounds like a social rebel in comparison to her mother and sister, she says that she would agree to a family-arranged marriage provided she gets a chance to meet the suitor and get to know him. "I will never marry without my family approval," Hissa asserts.

Louloua (not her real name), 32, who lives with her husband and daughter in an apartment overlooking the Gulf, also believes that it is healthier for couples to have a place of their own. "I could work out problems between my husband and myself better away from our families. Also, there are these little things that might build up and cause problems such as the way I dress my little girl. My mother-in-law might not like it for instance," she says.

Like many other young couples, Louloua and her husband Hassan got married after a love story and their families approval. Girls falling in love was unheard of forty or fifty years ago.

Traces

"When parents felt their daughter liked a young man or even mentioned him often, they got her married to another one," says Fadel Khalaf, a Kuwaiti writer in his sixties.

"My daughter, who is a doctor, came to me and told me that she is in love with her colleague at the university. There is nothing wrong with that. But my sister could have never said anything of that sort to my father, for instance," adds Khalaf.

But Khalaf believes that Kuwaiti society still has "traces of the past." "Although girls can drive and go to the university, some of them are still being pushed into marriages they don't want," he says explaining that change takes a very long time to occur even in Western societies.

Khalaf remembers his unpleasant experience of moving out of his father's house after he was married more than forty years ago. His parents were heartbroken. "It was like declaring some kind of a war, but I was determined to gain freedom for myself, my wife and my children," he says.

But not everybody wanted to fight the prevailing system at the time, especially women who took it for granted because it was all they knew. Umm Walid Al Buaijan, who is in her late fifties today, remembers when the oldest member of the house, male and female, had the final say in everything that has to do with the house and its occupants of all generations.

Obedience

"Orders of Abu Al Beit (father of the house) or Umm Al Beit (mother of the house) were obeyed without any questions. Even a married son could not move a thing from one place to the other without consulting his father," she remembers.

Although Umm Walid accepts the change that has occurred in

the make-up of the Kuwaiti family, she often misses that closeness that was lost in the process. She would understand if her son wanted to live in a place of his own with his wife when he gets married, but deep inside, she would want them to stay with her in the same house.

Sheikha Al Zahem would not agree. She believes that children having their own houses is a cause for better relationships in families. "When a number of families live in one house, they fight more. But when they have separate living space they become more relaxed. In one house, your business becomes everybody's business and you lose your privacy," she says.

Real Change

"Although most Kuwaiti families don't live in what we used to call the family house anymore, our feeling of belonging to the one big family is still very strong. I know that my six brothers and four sisters and their families are going to be there for me when I need them and vice versa," Zahem explains.

"When I am having something for lunch I know my brother likes. I cannot but send him some with the driver. I cannot enjoy life without my family. I exist through them."

Zahem, one of five teen-ager girls who set fire to their abayas (traditional black head-to-toe cover) in front of their school in 1956, believes that the change in the Kuwaiti family was brought by a boom in education rather than a boom in economy.

"When girls started to go to school in 1958, they started to open up to the world and know

that a lot of things needed to be changed," she says remembering how her father chased her all over the neighbourhood after she burnt her abaya.

But Hamad Al Suaidan, author of the Kuwaiti Encyclopedia, believes that real change occurred in the early fifties when oil returns were distributed to the people. "When the government started buying old houses in the city to open new roads, and when building houses outside the Sour (the old city wall) was permitted, Kuwaitis became more financially able to build their new houses," he says adding that the government's policy of providing Kuwaitis with plots and loans to build houses also contributed to the expansion of the city.

"Also when young Kuwaitis went to school and got jobs with the government, they became financially independent. Their leaving the 'big house' was one way of expressing their needs for independence," Suaidan explains.

But the new family set-up is not problem free. The Kuwaiti family today in its transformational shape still has a number of difficulties that need to be dealt with. Among them is over-dependence on hired help in the home.

"We don't seem to be able to do without servants today. In the old days all women in a house helped to get things done," says Suaidan.

It might seem that this dependency is partly caused by women working outside the home. But Dr Najat Al Mutawa, assistant vice-rector for information at Kuwait University, believes that a woman could have a job and give enough attention to her family at the same time, of course depending on the type of her work, how understanding and helpful her husband is and the ages of her children.

Mutawa believes that the Kuwaiti family today suffers from what she called the "absence of the family." She explains that although a mother might be in the house for most of the day, she would not spend enough time with her children leaving them to the maid.

"I have maids and I work. But my relationship with my children is excellent because I make an effort to spend time with them, ask about their school work, answer their questions," she asserts.

Divorce

Spinsterhood is another problem. It is usually attributed to high dowries and the increase in the number of Kuwaiti men marrying non-Kuwaitis.

"A frightening thing that was characteristic of the old Kuwaiti family is the tendency of these families to imitate one another in their lifestyles regardless of their income," says Suaidan.

Also, divorce which used to be a shameful blow to the whole family because marriage was considered a bond between these families, is more common and more accepted now especially since women today do not totally depend on the men-folk of their families for livelihood.

But whatever the extent of change and the types of problems that might sound like those faced by families in the West, Mutawa does not believe that the Kuwaiti family today is heading in the direction of becoming a Westernised nuclear family.

"We refuse the European style of life when it comes to relationships with the family. We will never agree to our daughters leaving the house and living on their own when she becomes seventeen for instance. Care for the elderly will remain one of the family functions, unlike in the West," Mutawa states.

Higher education draft under revision: Haroun

Experts to help frame law

THE Undersecretary of Ministry of Higher Education Dr Mussed Al Haroun has said that a consultative committee set up by the minister of higher education is now revising the new draft law of higher education submitted by the legal affairs committee.

He added that several copies of the draft law were sent to some scientific and academic institutions in Kuwait and abroad. The ministry also invited a number of experts to help the committee in framing the law. He added that the students union submitted its views and comments on the draft law that are being studied along with comments of peers and establishments of repute.

Haroun pointed out that the ministry is also preparing the unified charter of scholarships which is intended to solve many problems that are facing Kuwaiti students abroad. He added that scholarships plan for this year took into consideration the Five-Year Plan of the state, outputs of secondary schools inputs of Kuwait University and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and the actual needs of the labour market. In this development, the official said letters to 49 government and non-government establishments have been sent to know their requirements and needs of graduates. Their answers encouraged the ministry to start its scholarships plan for the next five years.

The ministry has also set a unified system for scholarships submitted by Kuwait to other countries and organisations. A proposal to set up a central committee to set the general policy for scholarships was submitted. The plan will determine the needs of the state for scholarships and different majors and criteria for these scholarships. He added that the central committee will consist of representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Awqaf and Higher Education as well as National Council for Culture Arts and Letters, Kuwait.

University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

He pointed out that one of the policies of the ministry is to develop work at the cultural offices of Kuwait abroad. The ministry aims at giving more authority to these offices in taking decisions as the cultural offices play a vital and basic role in supervising Kuwaiti students abroad and in solving their problems. The ministry will provide these offices with required qualifications and experiences, develop the administrative systems and enhance the use of computers in their activities and duties. The ministry is also studying the viability to open new cultural offices in some foreign countries, he said.

Haroun said that the committee set up by the ministry to set the organisational structure of the ministry has completed its work and the committee has invited a number of specialists and former ministers in some Arab countries for this purpose. The committee is now setting the employment classification of different jobs at the ministry beside the organisational directory of different departments.

Departments

The ministry will consist of several departments such as scholarships, cultural relations, public relations, information, administrative affairs, and financial affairs departments beside two specialised centres one of development of higher education and other the information centre that will contain the library and computers. He added that Kuwait University will be an independent institution headed by a rector and supervised by a council headed by the minister of higher education. A new university will be established at Shadadiya area at the end of this century which also will be independent with cultural and academic relations with the present university. The work of building the new university will start after five years, Haroun said.

Caught red-handed

Detectives of Criminal Intelligence Department (CID) apprehended a gang on the charge of smuggling drugs into the country for trafficking purposes, the Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Interior reported.

The culprits identified as Luai A. Iraqi, Hamad B. Kuwaiti, Abdullah B. Kuwaiti, Hussain S. Egyptian, Hamad A. Kuwaiti, and Abdullah A. Kuwaiti, were caught red-handed in possession of about 40 packets of hashish, 8,710 drug pills, two machineguns with 169 bullets, four pistols with 127 bullets in addition to three cartons of whisky, the department said.

It added that the contraband along with the defendants were referred to the competent authority for further investigations.

'Half-timers' Oman government servants slammed

Municipality may collect service fees

By Jamal Ameen

MUSCAT, May 28. (AP): Oman's Civil Service Minister Ahmed Macki slammed the sultanate's "half-time civil servants" in the state press yesterday.

Research showed the government's 64,000 employees wasted nearly 50 per cent of their working hours on arriving late, leaving early, doing personal errands, visiting other offices, chatting on the telephone or going out because they were "fed up," the English Daily Observer reported.

According to "startling statistics" showing widespread unproductivity, the paper reported that civil servants each worked an average 648 hours annually instead of the stipulated 1,414.

Macki was quoted as saying it was time civil servants realised the harm they were doing to the national economy and warned that salary cuts for absenteeism would be imposed more strictly.

He said the government had reduced the official working week from six to five days — last July — to give civil servants time to attend to their own affairs. "It has far from eliminated time wasting," he said.

Oil-producing Oman, the second largest country in the Arabian peninsula in terms of size, has an estimated 1.5 million population including desert nomads and mountain tribesmen, and employs around 300,000 foreign workers, mostly from the underdeveloped nations.

Macki said it was difficult to fire government employees because of protective civil service legislation.

"One of my worries is that the evaluation reports of government employees are done to please rather than being realistic. And if they are false it is negatively reflected in productivity. I trust that the evaluators will use their consciences and will be honest," he said.

The absenteeism figures were revealed following a two-year "punctuality, attendance and productivity" research study initiated by the Muscat-based Institute of Public Administration.

The council of ministers has reportedly agreed to revise the last clause under article 24 of law No 15 issued in 1972 regarding the Municipal Affairs Committee, which regulates the functions and areas of competence of the committee.

The revision has stipulated that the committee could impose duties on the use of public facilities run by the committee, and that it has the right to set up the needed fee-collecting system and lay down all required measures on delayed payment.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Affairs Committee has agreed to allocate three sites for the mobile telephone communications system, one in Shaab, the other in Abdullah Salem district and the third in Adailiya.

It also agreed to the names given to the Jahra project, while the council of ministers refused to approve one decision for the use of certain street numbering systems on the condition that the related study be reconsidered.

Road problems being addressed

THE Director of Research and Laboratories at the Ministry of Public Works, Zaid Abdul Latif was quoted as saying that the roads research centre affiliated to the department has carried out several consulting studies for different governmental authorities, including the Public Ports Authority (PPA), Director General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Ministry of Defence.

These studies are intended to address the problems related to the paving of roads, the official said. He added that the department had

recently adopted a scheme aimed at utilising value added materials designed to improve bitumen quality. The scheme further aims at conducting a study of Kuwaiti soil in addition to the review of the general specifications concerning road projects at the Ministry of Public Works.

The official said that his department has designed an asphaltic mixture which is intended to resist the adverse climatic factors that generally affect road pavements.

Over KD1.4bn spent on housing since '74

KD876m allocated for next plan

THE minister of state for housing affairs Naser Abdullah Al Roudhan has said that the total amount of money spent by the National Housing Authority (NHA) for construction of housing projects to provide government houses for Kuwaiti families since the year of its establishment in 1974 up to the last year 1988/89 was KD1,434,532,000.

He told a local daily that the total government spending on government

houses has leapt considerably over the recent past which reflected the great government concern in providing decent public housing to Kuwaiti families.

He said that the highest amount of financial allocations for the housing project was in the budget of 1985/86 which rose to KD161,133,000, adding that the NHA has completed 40,024 housing units, of which 25,484 were houses, 3756 buildings, 1088

flats and 9696 Arabic style houses.

He said that the third Five Year Plan is nearing the end and the total number of houses completed totalled 24,000 housing units which included ready houses, buildings, flats and related facilities such as schools, mosques, clinics, shopping centre and others.

The government has allocated KD 876 million while a higher amount will be

allocated for construction of housing project within the frame work of the fourth five-year plan under which 28,000 housing units will be built.

He said that the problem of land scarcity was a basic impediment towards the expansion in housing projects, that is why the NHA keeps studying new building techniques to account for this problem, with the social considerations involved.

Labour law under review

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour intends to formulate a special law to increase the number of Kuwaiti employees in the private sector and accordingly a study in this respect is being undertaken.

A study to determine the level of nationals working in the private sector, indicated that they constitute only 4 per cent of the total manpower in this sector.

Meanwhile, Al Seyyassah, quoted a source at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour as stating that the ministry has a study in hand which relates to the problems caused by cancelling the residence permits of expatriates who have stayed away from Kuwait for over six months. The study which is in its final form is expected to be submitted to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour within the next few days the sources said.

Increase in state income

THE report of the Auditing Bureau on the closing account of the state budget for the fiscal year 1988/89 showed an increase of KD313,758,128 in the actual incomes of the state compared to the estimated incomes of the year.

The report indicated that there is an actual increase in the following: oil incomes KD246,559,044; income tax from non-oil companies: KD 3,891,719; customs taxes and fees: KD2,284,921; electricity and water: KD3,540,531; postal stamps and other official stamps: KD 10,718, 607; various returns and fees: KD 55,141,984; health services: KD2,823,125 and transportation and communications services: KD3,330,572.

The report also showed that the actual income of the state for 1988/89 increased by 5.15 per cent compared to actual income of 1987/88, totalling KD116,627,725. The report showed that public spendings amounted to KD3,194, 800,000 last year after being increased by KD250 million in an additional budget. Actual expenditure amounted to KD2,998,603,857 marking a saving of KD446,196,142.

Committee to amend charter

THE rector of Kuwait University Dr Shuaib Abdullah has said that a six member committee was set up comprising representatives of students and administration of university to amend only article No 10 of the courses charter. He added that other articles of the charter had been agreed upon prior to the students union strike on May 8, 90. The amended article No 10 permits students to re-study eight courses and to consider the last grade only. The six member committee will approve all proposed amendments submitted by union and administration in its next meeting on Monday, the official said.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the students union Naser Al Anzi has said that the six member committee held three meetings to amend articles 10 and 13. He added that committee article No 13 also to warn students who get an average of less than 1.67 if he finishes less than 45 credit hours, and who gets an average of 1.87 if he finishes between 45 and 60 credit hours. Students who get less than 2 points will get a warning if he finishes more than 60 credit hours. He added that committee also allowed students who get weak grades to register at least 12 credit hours after getting the approval of the science department. The students affairs committee of the university will also allow students who finish between 45 and 60 credit hours to transfer to other faculties or department, he said.

Kuna building

KUWAIT, May 28 (Kuna): Public Works Minister Abdel Rahman Al Houti today signed a contract with a local company for the construction, accomplishment and maintenance of the headquarters of the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna).

The KD 3.34 million contract is to be carried out in 600 days as of today.



Sulaili honoured

The director-general of Traffic Department Brigadier Abdulhameed Hajji Abdurahim honoured Engineer Raja Al Sulaili of the Ministry of Public Works for his efforts and co-operation with the Traffic Department, the Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Interior reported.

It added that Brigadier Abdurahim presented Sulaili with a certificate of appreciation and a commemorative gift for Sulaili for his contribution towards traffic streamlining.

From the courts

Policeman, mother-in-law sign good conduct pledge

THE Criminal Court has abstained from ruling against a woman and her son-in-law, a police corporal, and ordered that they submit a written statement pledging to observe good conduct for one year.

The court also decided to fire the corporal from his job with the police and acquitted his patrol companion and the woman's husband.

The court heard that the woman had issued a dud cheque to a man in the amount of KD8,300 in payment for cars, and planned to report the theft of three cheques that she had earlier signed blank and informed the relevant bank of the incident to take pre-emptive action.

On the day of the incident she agreed with the fiancé of her daughter to trap the man and intimidate him into giving back the cheque she signed. She made an appointment with the man to meet him and give him the money in cash in return for the cheque.

Her son-in-law was waiting with his companion in a patrol car as the man arrived so they picked him up and went to the Sixth Ring Road where they leaned on him to produce the cheque which he said was not with him and agreed to give it to them later.

As they released him, the man went straight to the police and all parties involved were rounded up for questioning.

THE Criminal Court has decided to abstain from ruling against a former announcer in a case in which he was charged of attempting to sexually assault his colleague, and ordered him to submit a written pledge of good conduct for one year, following the dropping of the case by the plaintiff.

The court heard that the defendant stayed with his two colleagues after the end of working hours waiting for the rush hour to pass lest they get caught in the traffic, and that they were joking when one of the women went to fetch her purse from the other room and returned to find the door locked.

She learnt that the defendant tried to force himself on her colleague against her will.

However, the defendant rejected the sentence and appealed and by reopening the case the court acquitted him of the charge.

He said that he was on good terms with the victim and that she on the day of the incident was jokingly holding his lighter attempting to burn his shirt.

and that he had to pull her hand to free the lighter from her hand.

The victim changed her testimony and said that he was nice to her and she never wanted to bring the matter to court except for some outside pressure.

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a video-shop owner to two and a half years in jail and bail of KD 280 to suspend the sentence, but the Court of Appeals revised the sentence to acquittal and reduced the imprisonment to six months only.

The court heard that two people had rented a video movie from the defendant's shop and after playing it they reported some indecent scenes on the film to the inspection department at the Ministry of Information.

Subsequent investigations revealed that the defendant had earlier sought official approval for adding two films to his public rental collection, and was told that he could do so after clipping the indecencies on one, and the note was written by the head of film control at the ministry.

The court discovered that the man had wiped off the official note, but he said he forgot to remove the bad scenes before making copies for public rental.

THE Juvenile Court decided to commit two teenagers into a social care institution till they mend their ways, after charging them with breaking into a parked car and stealing the sum of KD 13.

The boys admitted to having committed a number of petty thefts and gave official depositions, however they told the court that confessions were forced out of them, but the court found them guilty as charged and ordered them to be admitted into a social institution to improve their conduct.

THE Criminal court has sentenced a man to one month in jail with hard labour and fined him KD 75 to suspend the sentence.

The court heard that the defendant had insulted the principal in charge at his brother's school for deciding to prevent his brother from sitting the exams and expulsion from school, after he caught him cheating.

The man went to the school to attempt to patch up the situation but the discussion soon developed into a heated argument due to adamant insistence of the principal not to back off his decision, and this made the man spit in his face.

Rwandan minister concludes 2-day visit

KUWAIT, May 28 (Kuna): Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Dr Casimir Bizimungu left here today concluding a two-day official visit, during which he discussed with the Kuwaiti officials future of boosting bilateral co-operation between the two countries.

In a press conference held here today, before his departure, Bizimungu hailed the Kuwaiti-Rwandan relations.

He said that the discussed, during the visit, with the Kuwaiti officials ways of boosting economic and investment relations between the two countries, indicating that the relations had been boosted during the Rwandan president's visit to Kuwait in 1981.

He added that he met with the general director of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and other officials of the Kuwait Investment Company in the aim of studying the possibility of setting up joint economic and investment projects in the fields of tourism and agriculture.

Bizimungu invited the Kuwaiti private sector to put capital in investment projects in Rwanda.

The Rwandan official hailed efforts and activities of Africa's Muslims Committee for its assistance to the Muslims in Africa, pointing out that an agreement has been reached with the committee to construct schools and health centres in Rwanda during this year.

On the diplomatic relations with Israel, Bizimungu asserted that his country will not restore its diplomatic relations with Israel which had been severed in 1973, indicating that his country's stance did not change until now because of the Israeli stubbornness to solve the Palestinian question.

He also said that his country recognised the declaration of the State of Palestine in 1988, believing in the just Palestinian cause.

The Rwandan official in conclusion, expressed his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality he witnessed during his visit to Kuwait, wishing that the officials in the two countries exchange visits to strengthen co-operation between Rwanda and Kuwait.

Japan visit

TOKYO, May 28 (Kuna): A Kuwaiti delegation from the Ministry of the Interior, currently visiting Japan, began their scheduled meetings today morning with director of the Japanese National Police Agency Takayoshi Yashiro.

Yashiro presented the delegation with a detailed explanation of the organisational structure of the police force as well as the work procedures of the Japanese police at the local and international levels.

Lack of scientific policy bemoaned

Research imperative: officials

A NUMBER of senior officials and academicians in Kuwait stressed that the absence of a long term scientific and technological policy in Kuwait adversely affected the course of scientific research and development in the country. They unanimously agreed on the urgent need to establish a higher authority like a council or a special ministry to be in charge of working out a programmed science and technology policy for Kuwait. Among those who spoke were ministers, senior officials and academicians.

Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Shahrhan called for seeking the opinion of the public concerning the necessary and most required scientific research. Public opinion can be a guide for officials in charge of scientific research, Shahrhan said.

Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Al Shamlan announced that the ministry is currently studying the possibility of establishing a national committee for science and technology, jointly with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science and others. The committee will be in charge of working out the general policy for the transfer of technology and science to the country and determine its priorities in accordance with programmes and plans.

Minister of Finance Jassem Al Khorafi pointed out that the starting point concerning this issue should begin by developing and consolidating the role of the existing scientific institutes and centres. The minister added that concentration should be directed towards studying the adverse and negative aspects of the functioning of the existing scientific bodies in Kuwait. Through such directives the functioning of such establishments and bodies can be improved. He said that this is much better than the idea of establishing more councils and committees. Experiments in many countries showed that the establishment of several committees and centres lead to overlapping in duties and made them less productive. The minister added that if there is a true desire for improving scientific research in Kuwait, it should be done through evaluating the experiments of the establishments already involved in this field particularly KISR. He added that KISR has succeeded in completing many important research studies for Kuwait and has recently entered a new era of carrying out economic researches and studies at the level of the GCC.

The minister wondered what are we expecting to get from new committees that would begin from zero without benefiting from the old councils and scientific bodies.

Concerning the absence of a science and technology policy in Kuwait, Khorafi said that Kuwait is a small country. It has started off at a quick pace in this field. The country greatly centred on reducing the time factor in completing infrastructure. After completing that, there are plans to "work out strategies for future works in all fields including scientific research".

Chairman of the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij called for establishing a higher council for scientific research to be under the authority of a minister in order to give it necessary strength and power.

Assistant Kuwait University Rector for Scientific Research, Dr Ali Mohammad Akbar stressed that the establishment of a higher council for scientific research from all bodies concerned with scientific research is essential to develop scientific research and studies in the country. The council should have the power to work out policies, draw up research plans and co-ordinate them with development plans, and determine priorities of scientific research to comply with development plans and prevent repetition.

He said that Kuwait's 5-year development plan has included special national attention towards scientific research and a call for dependence on national cadres and the development of research in fields with strategic importance. But, he added, that the research policies and its framework have not been determined and so is its way of working. On the contrary, many developing countries have already drawn clear policies for science and technology and they provide facilities to scientific institutes to achieve their goals.

Applications Kuwait University, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, KISR, and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Kfas, are the major three scientific bodies involved in scientific research. Dr Ali Akbar said that the application of science for useful results requires encouraging a special type of studies known as development studies which Kuwait as most of other developing countries still lack. Concerning Kuwait University's role in scientific research, he said that it began at the university in a small way. In 1980/81 for example, the university financed 89 scientific studies but this number increased to 267 studies in 1985/86. This reflects an increasing attention in scientific research at the university, Dr Akbar added. The number of university sponsored and financed research studies shot up to 300, 388 and 437 researches in the following three years. This would mean that Kuwait University financed 2,129 scientific researches over the past 10 years.

Dr Akbar added that the scientific studies sponsored by the university centred on subjects involved in the country's economic development. Such subjects included engineering, petrochemicals, water resources, pollution, public health, diseases, desertification and others. Thus, most research actually served the process of development in Kuwait. He said that before granting sponsorship and financing to any research by the university special scientific research personnel evaluate the scope of the project. The practical feasibility must be proved to secure university financing. But he said that the practical implementation of scientific research proved successful by the university mainly depends upon political decision-makers.

Revision Director of the economic technology department at KISR, Dr Adel Assem called for revising the state policy on scientific research and development. He called for working out of a national programme to bridge the gap resulting from the absence of a clear policy on science and technology. He said that policies and planning

department at KISR works out scientific research plans through consultation with the various departments and examining the priorities of development plans in Kuwait besides asking for the opinions of the public and private sectors.

Financing of research depends mainly on the nature of research. KISR, Kfas and other concerned sides usually contribute to financing. He stressed that through its many research programmes, KISR made many important achievements both at scientific and human levels. It succeeded in creating a complete staff capable of applying and improving the method of scientific research.

Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan said that the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Kfas, has financed research studies at KISR and Kuwait University. Most of such researches were connected to development in Kuwait and science and technology.

Examples for such research studies include conservation of energy in buildings, surveys on shrimps in Kuwait's territorial waters, influence of heat on sheep productivity, upgrading the efficiency of poultry industry, use of personal computers in training deaf children, detection of pig fats and meat added to other types of meat and many others. He added that a number of research sponsored by Kfas and carried out in KISR won patents outside Kuwait. Kuwait registered at least 10 such patents abroad.

Experience

Director-General of KISR, Dr Ahmad Al Jassar said that over the past years, KISR gained a good experience in scientific research. It formed solid base of utilities and experiences relating to scientific research. It executed a number of studies and researches that saved huge amounts of money and helped solve difficult technical problems facing various industrial sectors. Examples for that is a research on building specifications for various constructions in Kuwait primarily aimed at saving consumption of energy. This research was carried out in co-operation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the ministry later adopted the results of the study and enforced it. As a result, hundreds of millions of dinars are being saved for the country.

KISR also made a great contribution during the oil slick resulting from the Iranian Norouz oil field during the Iraqi war. The KISR study found no real risk endangering the country. This saved the government lot of efforts and financial burdens of the time.

Jassar said that KISR also carried out many studies on the industrial sector in the country. It made a study on the performance of aluminium doors and windows in Kuwait. As a result, new specifications for aluminium windows and doors were adopted to suit climatic conditions in Kuwait. It greatly contributed in research for the oil sector. An example of this is the research on the reactivation of catalyst materials used in refineries. The institute similarly achieved a great number of useful scientific studies on many other subjects including food-stuff industries, developing government houses, ways of facing Manakha crisis, others for assisting national banks and many others.

Revision

Director of the economic technology department at KISR, Dr Adel Assem called for revising the state policy on scientific research and development. He called for working out of a national programme to bridge the gap resulting from the absence of a clear policy on science and technology. He said that policies and planning

Campaign in predominantly bedouin area started

By Diana Abou Haidar and Lima Al Khalafawi Arab Times staff

CAMELS were being hauled down from a vanette to a pen where they awaited their turn to be slaughtered, cooked in huge pots and served in an open air banquet to voters and supporters of Mohammed Al Mousailem.

Mousailem, an ex-member of the 1985 National Assembly running for a seat in the Interim National Council for Farwaniya and Fardous, started his campaign in the predominantly bedouin areas two days ago.

"As a candidate I feel that I represent not only my tribe or district but also the whole of Kuwait," said the son of the chief of Al Rashaida tribe adding that tribal elections have more negative than positive effects. "The results of sub-elections taking place among tribes by draw in case of voters get equal number of votes, sometimes causes misunderstanding among members of the same tribe and the emergence of incompetent candidates."

Attendance at Mousailem's headquarters comprising of four tents with a large carpeted seating area in the centre was noticeably high. Mousailem who was interrupted several times by guests shaking his hands and kissing his nose, explained that this form of bedouin greeting is a sign of respect and support.

"This respect and brotherly love extends to other candidates in the constituency. We exchange visits and banquet invitations because this election is an honourable competition and let the best man win," he said.

The member of Farwaniya Governorate Council has an elaborate plan to follow up on a number of issues raised during the 1985 parliament sessions such as expropriating property and increasing the number of schools and health centres.

"I believe in helping all people regardless of their nationality. I have taken the doors off my diwaneya in Omariya since 1975 when an elderly man seeking my help had to sleep by my door from early morning until noon because there was no one to open



Mohamed Al Mousailem

the door for him.

Hospitality, an old bedouin tradition, is also kept alive on Mousailem's campaign grounds where feasting continues until dawn. "Guests feel at home helping themselves to a piece of meat from slaughtered sheep and grill it on coal that keeps burning all night."



Guests of Mousailem outside his tent in Fardous.

Fund raiser

ISLAMABAD, May 28 (Kuna): Mrs Badriya Al Yaqout, wife of the Kuwaiti ambassador to Pakistan, was chief guest at a charity show held at the Rawalpindi last evening to raise funds for the poor and needy women of the city.

Mashaal, a social welfare organisation comprising the wives of army officers, staged the show as part of its drive to collect donations for helping the indigent women of the federal capital area.

Under the banner of 'Khatir-e-Khatun' (Heart of the Woman), the show featured a variety of performances and stalls. The event was a success, with many donations being collected for the welfare of the poor women in Islamabad.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BEWARE the fury of a patient man — John Dryden, English poet (1631-1700).

Heading for summit Gorby leaves turmoil behind

MOSCOW, May 28, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev will escape from a pile of trouble at home when he flies to this week's Washington summit with American President George Bush to clinch some foreign policy and disarmament gains.

Indeed his second summit with Bush may be a welcome break from battling serious challenges to his leadership, including a call for a no-confidence vote in his government, turmoil in the restive Soviet republics and social unrest on his own doorstep.

"I'm sure he is looking forward to this summit so he can see some people cheering him, some people who like him," a Western diplomat said, referring to Gorbachev's popularity in the West.

"He needs the pictures of the friendly crowds around him. Every politician can use that, but Gorbachev especially right now," another diplomat said.

Critic

Gorbachev's fiercest domestic critic, populist politician Boris Yeltsin, made a strong showing at the weekend in an inconclusive race for president of the Russian federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Gorbachev leaves today for Canada and the United States. Moscow is in chaos with hundreds of thousands of citizens rushing to the shops in a wave of panic buying to beat big price rises likely to result from a planned switch to a market economy outlined by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov last Thursday.

An opinion poll in the weekly Moscow News said Gorbachev's perestroika reforms had run into a "credibility crisis," with 62 per cent of Soviet citizens expecting mounting difficulties.

Gorbachev on Sunday compared the magnitude of changes under way in the Soviet Union with the 1917 Russian Revolution and predicted major economic upheavals in the years ahead.

In the rebellious Baltics, Lithuania has refused to bite at an offer of independence within three years if it suspends its present unilateral declaration of independence.

Fresh trouble flared on Sunday in the republic of Armenia, where six Armenians were shot dead in clashes with Interior Ministry troops.

Offset

But gains abroad, such as a new deal on nuclear weapons and the narrowing of differences with the West on the future of a united Germany, could offset the turmoil back home, analysts said.

Gorbachev's big goal at the four-day Washington summit which starts on Wednesday is to ensure that he and Bush sign an agreement on an accord to limit strategic nuclear arms (Start).

"He needs to be able to come home and say, 'We don't need to build any more rockets, we can use the money to help our industry and agriculture,'" the Western diplomat said.

An agreement in principle on Start, the main points of which were agreed during a Moscow visit by Secretary of State James Baker last week, is expected to be the summit's centrepiece.

Bush and Gorbachev are also to sign an accord on halting chemical weapons production and several lesser agreements, ranging from nuclear testing to joint oceanic research and the establishment of a joint cultural centre.

But if the superpowers are finding ever more room for agreement, there are major differences between them on Lithuania and the future military status of a united Germany.

Gorbachev bristled on both issues at a news conference with French President Francois Mitterrand on Friday, saying Lithuania was an internal affair and that those who urged Germany to be a full Nato member were "sowing discord and distrust" in Europe.

Some Soviet officials hope the Americans will not push Gorbachev on either issue, saying that his room for manoeuvre is limited by conservatives at home angry with the separatist Baltic republics and alarmed by the prospect of Germany in Nato.

"The American leadership must be clearly aware that in the USSR questions of foreign policy are becoming an object of inner political struggle," wrote political scientist Andrei Kortunov in the weekly Moscow News.

"The US administration's growing pressure on Gorbachev can strengthen the conservatives in the USSR."

Gorbachev himself has warned that neither superpower should try to profit from the other's domestic woes.

"Neither of us should succumb to the temptation, when things get complicated either in America or in the Soviet Union, to rub our hands with glee or fish in troubled waters," he told the US-Soviet Trade Council last Wednesday.

With speculation rampant at home and abroad that Gorbachev is under increased pressure from the military to reverse his reforms, he gave no direct answer on Friday when a reporter asked whether he could lose his job in a military coup.

But he said the military had the same influence on his policies that the American military had on the White House — in other words, a considerable amount.

A veteran of five meetings with former US president Ronald Reagan and the Malta summit with Bush, Gorbachev has indicated that he is more interested than ever in better ties with the United States, saying that summits should be held every year.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1453 — Constantinople, capital of Byzantine Empire, is captured by Turks — some historians list date as end of Middle Ages.

1660 — George Rakoczy, prince of Transylvania, dies in battle with Turks.

1692 — British fleet defeats French Navy at La Hogue, ending attempted invasion of England.

1765 — Peter II, grandson of Peter I and son of Alexis, becomes tsar of Russia.

1807 — Turkey's Sultan Selim III is deposed by Mustapha IV.

1923 — Palestine constitution is suspended by British because Arabs refuse to co-operate.

1943 — Americans defeat Japanese in battle of Attu in Aleutian Islands in World War II.

1947 — Constituent assembly in India outlaws "untouchability."

1953 — Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norkay of Nepal become first climbers to reach top of Mount Everest, world's highest mountain.

1954 — Thailand complains in United Nations that communists in Indochina threaten her security.

1966 — Buddhist nun burns herself to death outside pagoda in South Vietnamese city of Hue in protest against country's military government.

1972 — US president Richard Nixon and Soviet Communist Party secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev sign declaration pledging era of peaceful co-existence between United States and Soviet Union.

1978 — China's foreign minister Huang Hua charges at United Nations that Soviet Union is the most dangerous source of new world war.

1984 — Sikh terrorists kill seven people in new wave of hit-and-run attacks in India's troubled Punjab state.

1985 — Thirty-eight people are killed and 375 others injured at a Brussels stadium in riots before a European Cup soccer match.

1989 — Japanese court rules that doctors are not required to tell patients they may have cancer.

Crackdown costs China

Spectre of Tiananmen Square lingers

Where are they

BEIJING, (AP): Here are brief profiles of leaders of the Chinese pro-democracy movement crushed a year ago.

In exile

■ **Wu'er Kaixi, 22** — A freshman education major at Beijing Normal University who grabbed a megaphone during one of the first sit-down protests and persuaded the crowd to hold its ground against police. He became one of the movement's most prominent leaders and boldly challenged Premier Li Peng during a televised meeting. Wu'er went into hiding June 4, 1989, and turned up in Hong Kong three weeks later. He now lives in the United States.

■ **Chai Ling, 24** — Sometimes called La Pasionaria of Tiananmen Square for her emotional, tearful speeches. She was a graduate psychology student at Beijing Normal University and emerged as a spokeswoman early in the pro-democracy movement. Some other students said she was too unstable and fond of notoriety. She was among the 21 most-wanted students after the June 4 army attack. After months in hiding, Chai and her husband, Feng Congde, also on the wanted list, arrived in Paris in April. She has been nominated for the 1990 Nobel peace prize.

In jail

■ **Wang Dan, 21** — Sophomore history student at Beijing University arrested in July 1989 after being named the most-wanted student leader in China. He became prominent on campus in 1988 by organising unofficial lectures. Guest speakers included physicist and political dissident Fang Lizhi, whom Wang greatly admired. Later, he helped lead the spring marches. Wang's parents, both Beijing intellectuals, were allowed to visit him in prison in January. He has not been charged.

■ **Liu Gang, 29** — No. 3 on the government list of most-wanted protest leaders after Wang Dan and Wu'er Kaixi. Liu took part in the 1986-87 student marches for democracy while a graduate physics student at Beijing University. When last year's movement began, he was working at a research institute and joined the students. On June 19, state television announced his arrest in Boading, south of Beijing, where he was posing as a worker. There has been no word of him since.

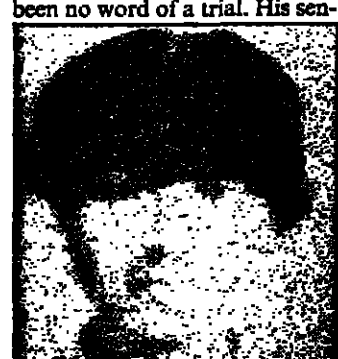
■ **Chen Xiaoping, 29** — A teacher at the Politics and Law University in Beijing, who was arrested last summer. Friends say Chen was a Communist Party member who believed the system could be reformed from within. His first act of protest came as a graduate student at Beijing University in 1985, when he criticised officials for banning a student pro-democracy demonstration in Tiananmen Square. Last spring, he helped organise Beijing citizens behind



Wu'er Kaixi

the latest protest. A recent unconfirmed report said he was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

■ **Ren Wandong, 45** — Arrested at home June 10. An accountant with thick glasses and an intense manner, Ren took part in the 1978-79 democracy movement, which was put down by senior leader Deng Xiaoping. He spent four years in jail. In November 1988, Ren began writing essays commemorating the earlier movement and calling for democratic change. When students began marching in the spring of 1989, he made speeches on campuses and at Tiananmen Square. He was charged in March with counter-revolutionary incitement, but there has been no word of a trial. His sentence could range from five years in prison to death.



Wang Dan

■ **Liu Xiaobo, 34** — A lecturer in Chinese literature at Beijing Normal, arrested the first week of June 1989 while bicycling from a friend's home. He was an outspoken critic of what he considered repressive aspects of traditional culture. When the protests began, he returned from the United States, where he was to teach at Columbia University and joined in. He and three friends began a hunger strike June 2 in support of the students. When soldiers reached Tiananmen Square the morning of June 4, the four negotiated a peaceful retreat for the students. His wife and in-laws visited Liu at Qincheng prison in January. He has not been charged.

■ **Zhang Zhiyong, about 24** — A graduate student in international relations at Beijing University, arrested in July in Nanjing. He was one of the three students who knelt for hours on the steps of the Great Hall of the People on April 22, 1989. They sought to deliver a

student petition to China's top leaders, who were at a funeral service inside for former Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang. Friends said Zhang was optimistic to the end that the party would grant democratic reforms. He favoured compromise rather than confrontation, a course other students rejected. Sources say he shares a cell with several other students. He has not been allowed visitors, but was permitted to write his family a letter.

■ **Zhang Weiping** — A senior at the Zhejiang Fine Arts Institute in Hangzhou, sentenced in August to nine years in prison for having told the Voice of America that Hangzhou students forced local authorities to fly the flag at half-mast in honour of protesters slain June 3-4 in Beijing. The report was not true and Zhang was accused of spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda.

■ **Deng Xiaoping** — 85, China's paramount leader has resigned in the past year from his last two official posts as head of the party and government military commissions. He rarely makes public appearances. Chinese sources say he has cancer and there are frequent rumours he is seriously ill or dead. The man who brought economic reform to China a decade ago still is regarded as its most powerful politician.

■ **President Yang Shangkun** said recently that national leaders "are meeting him very often in various places." Deng approved the orders to send troops into Beijing in June 1989, but also is believed to be a voice of moderation in preventing persecution of ousted Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, his former protégé, and seeking better relations with West.

■ **Li Peng** — 61, the conservative premier, widely disliked for his refusal to compromise with the students and his decision to impose martial law in Beijing. There was speculation earlier this year that party leaders would appoint public opinion by easing the adopted son of the late premier Chou En-Lai into a less important post. Li has shown growing confidence, however, and if the economy recovers from the slump caused by austerity measures Li introduced in 1988, his chances of serving until the end of his five-year term in 1993 appear good.

■ **President Yang Shangkun** — 82, a former general who joined Li in ordering the bloody military suppression of the democracy movement. Yang, an old friend and ally of Deng, is far more active and vigorous than Deng and appears to be manoeuvring to become the next "paramount leader." His main source of power is the military. He is first vice-chairman of the policy-making central Military



Chai Ling

Commission and has had his younger brother, Yang Baibing, the army's top political commissar, installed as its general secretary.

■ **Zhao Ziyang** — 70, purged as Communist Party chief June 24, 1989, after being accused of supporting the turmoil and trying to split the party. He has not been seen in public since a tearful meeting with student hunger strikers May 19, 1989, in Tiananmen Square. He lives in Beijing under virtual house arrest. Zhao is said to have refused to confess any wrong doing, and the party has not carried through on threats of criminal charges. Zhao remains a party member and still has considerable support among people who favour his policies of

rapid economic reform.

■ **Hu Qili** — 60, sided with Zhao in calling for negotiations with the students. He, too, was removed from the five-member Politburo standing committee on June 24 and removed from all party posts. Hu, a protégé of the late party chief Hu Yaobang, has disappeared from public view, but did attend the annual session this spring of the national legislature. Deputies surrounded Hu, asking for his autograph and posing for pictures with him.

■ **Jiang Zemin** — 63, former mayor and Communist Party chief of Shanghai, was Deng's surprise choice to succeed Zhao as head of the National Party and become the "core" of China's next-generation leadership. Jiang's power base in Beijing is weak and he is seen by some as an interim leader. So far, he has carefully followed the party's current conservative ideological stance, a caution warranted by the purge of his two predecessors. Zhao and Hu Yaobang for violating party discipline.

Liu Gang

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People still under lock

BEIJING, (AP): Ren Wandong, a veteran of Chinese jails, was mentally prepared for arrest several weeks before police arrived at his apartment door last June 10.

Even before soldiers and tanks rolled into central Beijing on June 3 to end popular protests for democracy, Ren's name had been raised in private official meetings as one of the "very few counter-revolutionaries" who eventually would be blamed for the whole movement.

Friends alerted him, but Ren said May 27, after a last meeting with foreign journalists, that he wasn't running.

"This is my freedom of speech," said the skinny, bespectacled accountant, who for six months had been writing and distributing essays calling for human rights and the rule of law.

"I must speak. It is my fate to do these things."

Nine months after his arrest, Ren, now 45, was charged with counter-revolutionary incitement. With his prison record, four years served for participating in a 1978 democracy movement, he is likely to get more than the minimum five years.

"I keep having this vision, that Ren comes home and I'm not there and he can't get in," his wife, Zhang Fengying, said soon after his arrest.

Reports

Now, with the hope of an early release gone, friends say she has become deeply depressed. She has not been allowed to see him, only to deliver clothes and books.

Ren is believed held in Qincheng prison, western Beijing, where many of last year's protesters were sent, but it has not been confirmed. There have been no reports on his condition, but before his arrest Ren predicted he would manage.

"I'm experienced," he said. A little more is known about the fate of

Wang Dan, a Beijing university sophomore who was at the forefront of many marches and was arrested in July.

Reports from others jailed with him and later released, and from friends who received a postcard from jail, indicate he has enough to eat but little exercise, and is allowed to read newspapers and approved books.

His parents, Beijing intellectuals, were allowed to visit in January, a rare exception to the usual rule of no visits before sentencing. Some experts say Wang has shown what authorities call "a good attitude" and may be released, but two large prisoner releases — 573 people last winter and 211 in May — did not include him.

Just before martial law was declared in May 1989, Wang, then 20, was impatient when asked if he feared arrest.

"Didn't he remember Wei Jingsheng, another youth who led a democracy movement and has been in jail for 11 years?"

"How can we worry about one person's safety?" Wang replied, standing in his dormitory hall with a dinner bowl in his hand.

"Besides, I'm too busy. What can we do, anyway? If they want to arrest us, they will."

Gao Xin, a hunger striker released from prison in December, believes his friend and fellow striker, Liu Xiaobo, also will be freed.

"It's as if the government is sifting sand," said Gao, who used to edit a university newspaper but has been unemployed since his release. "The little pieces will fall through the sieve — I fell out early — and only the big one will be charged."

He acknowledged that Liu, a teacher of Chinese literature with a passion for politics, might be a "big piece." Liu returned from New York, where he planned to lecture at Columbia University, to take part in the spring democracy movement.

Official media have singled him out frequently. The government even compiled a

slim paperback volume of criticism of the "crazy turmoil inciter."

Allowed

Liu, 34, has not been charged with anything so far, even though he has been held since early June. His wife and in-laws were allowed to visit him in January at Qincheng prison — a good sign, Gao said — and found he had put on weight from lack of exercise.

He is allowed to read books sent from home. Reports are that he, like most of the other intellectuals, receives better treatment from guards than common criminals and is not physically abused.

Despite the releases, arrests continue. Chinese sources said police went to the home of a college teacher last month and told him to come for a walk. He never returned.

A few dissidents still write political tracts and plant them cautiously in bicycle racks and public places, but they meet only in very small groups of trusted friends and have no immediate plans for protests or acts of sabotage.

Some would-be activists make pilgrimages to Beijing, seeking leadership. Recently, a 20-year-old worker got off a train from the south and began looking for "an armed rebel group," without success. None is known to exist.

"In our country, there aren't many people willing to sacrifice themselves," he said disconsolately. "I am willing."

Sacrifice is more prosaic for the wife of one jailed protester. Without his income, she faces financial difficulty. She has had to send their child to her parents and fears losing their apartment.

She said she is willing to deal with those problems because, "while he is in jail, I should sacrifice."

When he comes out, she said, "I'll dance up a storm."

There is one thing investors don't like it uncertainty.

In Hong Kong, uncertainty about the future has led to a flight of talent. About 1,000 people, mainly professionals, emigrate

every week from the British colony, which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

The desire to escape is pervasive among the educated young in China, but few can do it.

Finland in no haste to change Soviet ties

HELSINKI, (Reuters): Like its Baltic neighbours, Finland is re-examining relations with the Soviet Union, but with the caution born of experience.

While Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania clamour for the independence they lost in 1940, Finland is in no hurry to alter the course it has followed since World War II.

"We must distinguish between visions and practical politics," said Aarno Karhilo, under-secretary of state for political affairs, in an interview with Reuters.

Some Finnish politicians and researchers have suggested that Finland's 1948 treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance with the Soviet Union has outlived its usefulness and should be revised.

"The treaty has functioned well. Raising the question of its future is natural, but the government believes no change is needed at present," Karhilo said.

The pact has been renewed three times and is now valid until the year 2003. Its military clauses bind Finland, with Soviet help, to repel any attack by Germany.

This pact, and the cession of the Finnish Karelia to the Soviet Union, have been in the past been cited in Western capitals as evidence of Helsinki's alleged political subservience to Moscow, the so-called 'Finlandisation' effect.

"We have noted to our regret that this term is used, and we feel it is an unfair view of Finnish policy," Karhilo said.

As far as Finland was concerned, "we feel we have a stable relationship, a modus vivendi, with the Soviet Union," he added.

Karhilo emphasised that Finnish foreign policy was decided by a democratically elected Finnish government. "It is one we have chosen ourselves," he said.

Finnish and other Nordic newspapers have recently criticised Helsinki's attitude towards the three Baltic republics striving for autonomy as half-hearted.

Norwegian and Danish editorials last month said Finland had blocked a joint Nordic declaration in favour of Lithuania at a meeting of foreign ministers in Copenhagen.

At home, the conservative evening daily, Iltalehti said the incident was a good example of Finlandisation. Lappeenranta, a newspaper in the Lapp capital of Rovaniemi, said Finnish policy towards Lithuania was understood neither at home nor abroad.

Timo Vahvainen, secretary of a Russian studies programme at Helsinki University, said that Firms had been forced throughout history to accommodate a powerful neighbour.

"This Finland's paradox that in order to develop relations with the West, we must have some trust and security to the east," he said.

President Mauno Koivisto recalled earlier this month that Finland had been widely predicted to share the same fate as the three Baltic republics, which were incorporated by the Soviet Union in 1940.

"But we want another road," he said. "This road led first through great difficulties and sacrifices but later to a stable relationship with our neighbouring great power. The Soviet Union has become a good neighbour."

Finland as a defeated nation ceded Karelia to the Soviet Union, and signed the 1947 Paris peace treaty restricting its armed forces and their deployment.

Koivisto has rejected demands by the Karelia Association for talks on the recovery of the province, and ruled out any change to the Soviet treaty.

But former prime minister Kalevi Sorsa, tipped as the front-runner to succeed Koivisto as president in 1994, has said he could contemplate changes in the 1948 treaty.

Dr Risto Penttila, a researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, caused a stir recently when he presented a thesis on Finnish neutrality concluding that the Soviet treaty needed updating.

"It should be revised to spell out Finland's neutrality, the consultations and timing of military co-operation, and dropping the reference to Germany," Penttila told a reporter.

Two Russians cruise liners riding at anchor in Helsinki harbour, and the onion dome of Orthodox Uspensky cathedral remind the visitor of Finland's cultural ties with its Eastern neighbour.

But Finnish pride at defending its independence against the Soviet Red Army was reflected in the film "The Winter War," a fiction version of the 1939-40 campaign which played to packed houses in Finnish cinema last winter.

Industrial output surges

Turkey's roller coaster economy may rush back to high growth

ISTANBUL, May 28. (Reuters): Bucking high inflation and political uncertainty, Turkey's roller-coaster economy is showing signs of heading back to high growth.

A new mood is evident in Istanbul, where smart cars abound and a building boom is throwing up apartment blocks. State-run Turkish Airlines has even started serving coffee and chocolates instead of water on its internal flights.

Statistics underpin the optimism. Industrial output rose 11.3 per cent in the first quarter of this year over the same 1989 period, and gross national

product is officially tipped to surge 5.7 per cent this year after 1.7 per cent last year.

Only a year ago shopkeepers used to complain of days that went by without a "siftah"—a first sale of the day, as the government hit economic brakes hard to combat inflation.

"It's now quite evident that there has been a considerable recovery in industrial output," said Ali Tigrel, head of the State Planning Organisation. "And consumer demand has been picking up."

But many businessmen are wary. Swift GNP growth over much of the

past decade, hitting 8.1 per cent in 1986, sparked inflation that has not gone away and the economy may be unable to bear a new round of expansion.

Inflation was an annual 63.5 per cent in April and the government's failure to pull it down is being slammed by the opposition, newspapers and economists.

Opinion polls show popular support for the ruling Motherland Party, which must call a general election by 1992, at just 10 per cent.

Eighty-four per cent of businessmen still think the economy is in bad shape, a newspaper survey showed. And 69 per

cent think the future will be no better.

There is a feeling that the government lacks the direction needed to build on a decade of export-driven growth.

"The government has changed its policy to revive domestic consumption," said Aydin Uluhan, general manager of Istanbul's Birlesik Yatirim Bank, commenting on a switch away from deflationary moves of the last two years such as tight credit.

"It looks like election economics," he said.

"Companies are cautious," said Richard Arsenault, general manager of KOC-Amerikan Bank AS. "They have

difficulty understanding whether this is a sustained (economic upsurge) or not."

Summer houses, portable phones and satellite television from Europe are becoming available to the average Turk through easily obtainable loans. Newspapers are full of advertisements for cars and household goods.

Some foreign bankers think the bullish atmosphere is justified by the healthy black economy.

"One can't judge completely by the figures published here as there's such a substantial unofficial economy that is not recorded," said David Carpita,

general manager of Istanbul's Yatirim Bank.

Government estimates of the black economy vary between 15 and 20 per cent of GNP.

Big wage claims threaten government hopes of winning back support by beating inflation. The trade union group Turk-Is wants a more than five-fold rise in the minimum monthly wage of 225,000 lira (\$86).

Pay rises expected for 1.5 million civil servants could stretch the 1990 budget deficit way over the targeted 10.5 trillion lira (\$4 billion).

The Motherland Party has seemed rudderless since Turgut Ozal gave up the premiership and became president in November, many Turks feel.

New Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut has suffered the resignation of two heavyweights, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz in February and Finance Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli in March, both over policy differences.

"The Motherland ship has run aground. Its captain has deserted," said Erdal Inoncu, head of the main opposition State Democrat Party, in a reference to Ozal.

Lower net profits for Japan's major banks

TOKYO, May 28. (Reuters): Japan's world-beating banks registered a string of weaker profits in the year ended March 31, results released today showed.

The banks, world leaders in recent years thanks to the strength of the yen and Japan's booming economy, were hit by losses from Mexican loans and increases in loan loss reserves to cover possible defaults by debtor nations.

Higher domestic interest rates also weighed on profits, bank officials said. Although the banks are charging higher rates as well as paying them to savers, not all of the costs of the latter could be immediately passed on to borrowers.

Japan's discount rate was at 2.5 per cent a year ago against the current 5.25 per cent.

Japanese banks do not expect profits to rebound sharply in the year ending March 31, 1991, bank officials said.

However, a Sumitomo bank official said: "A sharp profits fall will probably not be repeated in fiscal 1990 unless the situation in financial markets changes drastically."

Sumitomo bank's net profit fell to 174.54 billion yen (\$1.17 billion) in 1989/90 from 198.31 billion yen (\$1.33 billion) the previous year. It expects parent net profit to edge up to 175 billion yen (\$1.17 billion) in 1990/91.

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank's net profit fell to 155.59 billion yen (\$1.04 billion) in 1989/90 from 179.75 billion yen (\$1.20 billion). Japan's largest bank expects parent net profit to rise to 160 billion yen (\$1.07 billion) in 1990/91.

Fuji Bank's net profit fell to 147.13 billion yen (\$984 million) in 1989/90 from 171.95 billion yen (\$1.15 billion). It expects parent net profit to rise slightly to 150 billion yen (\$1.01 billion) in 1990/91.

Sanwa Bank's net profit fell to 148.14 billion yen (\$991 million) in 1989/90 from 155.50 billion yen (\$1.04 billion). It expects parent net profit to rise to 160 billion yen (\$1.07 billion) in 1990/91.

Bank of Tokyo's net profit fell to 50.90 billion yen (\$340 million) in 1989/90 from 59.24 billion yen (\$396 million). It expects parent net profit to rebound to 55.00 billion yen (\$368 million) in 1990/91.

Mitsubishi Bank's net profit fell to 149.85 billion yen (\$1.00 billion) in 1989/90 from 167.35 billion yen (\$1.12 billion). It expects parent net profit to drop to 120 billion yen (\$803 million) in 1990/91.

Ivory Coast to cut spending

ABIDJAN, May 28. (Reuters): Ivory Coast said today it would cut government spending by a quarter, sell off many official cars and close embassies abroad as part of economic reforms demanded by foreign creditors.

Central Bank Governor Alassane Ouattara told the national assembly foreign donors had approved the reforms and would lend 50 billion CFA francs (\$178 million) before the end of June.

The donors insisted on drastic cuts in public spending after Ivory Coast ditched an earlier International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank plan for pay cuts which caused the worst street protests in the country's history.

Ivory Coast's economy, once the showcase of black Africa, has slumped because of lower prices for its cocoa and coffee exports.

Dey in Kuwait

AMIT DEY, regional director, Engineering Export Promotion Council, Dubai is currently visiting Kuwait and is staying at Hotel Kuwait Continental, according to an Indian Embassy press release. He will be leaving for Dubai on 30th May. Those interested in import of engineering items may contact him at the hotel.

Bankers discuss monetary policy

Bahrain seminar on Islamic banking

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 28. (AP): Top Islamic bankers and economists concluded a three-day symposium today where a key issue was to ensure supervision by central banks over the burgeoning Islamic institutions.

Representatives from 20 countries where Islamic banking has been spreading also discussed monetary policy in Islamic economies, and the Islamic financial markets.

Islamic banking took off in Karachi, Pakistan in the late 1960s and spread in Islamic countries keen to adhere to the religion's rulings against usury. Bank interest is considered usury.

In 1976, an estimated \$2 billion was managed by Islamic banks. Today, it is estimated that \$30 billion to 50 billion are deposited in the Islamic banking sector world-wide.

The proliferating banking ins-

titutions are among the biggest financial players in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and Pakistan.

The symposium, the sixth of its kind at expert level, was organised by the Saudi-led International Association of Islamic Banks and the Faysal Islamic Bank of Bahrain. It was sponsored by the Bahrain Monetary Agency, the island's Central Bank, and the 46-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference, umbrella for the Islamic world.

The Bahrain bank operates as an offshore Islamic unit and alone holds assets of \$1.25 billion. It is part of the sprawling investment houses founded by Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohammed Bin Faisal.

The symposium was held behind closed doors. Conclusions and recommendations offered by panelists, later

released to the press, included proposals for further studies on the relationship between alternative tools of supervision by central and monetary authorities over Islamic banks, and levels of cash reserve and liquidity ratios by Islamic banks.

The meeting also reviewed the basic need for financial instruments and in turn, Islamic stock markets, specifying Egypt, Pakistan, Kuwait and Malaysia. It was recommended that working models be carried out to realise this need.

Conference panelist and governor of the Faysal Islamic Bank of Cairo, Ahmed Zandou, commented in an interview with the Associated Press that since Islamic banks do not operate on an interest principle, a way was being sought to adapt Central Bank rules for the exchange of deposits on both sides.

"In the case of Egypt," Zandou said, "Faysal Islamic Bank in Cairo has funds on deposit with the Central Bank on the basis of 'Modaraba' and, those funds are in foreign currency."

Under the Islamic concept of Modaraba, a syndication of financial institutions subscribe their respective participation to meet the financing requirements for a specific purpose.

Zandou said that "in the case of loss, each party has to forfeit something."

The reverse case is anticipated to also apply. In the event of a liquidity squeeze, an Islamic bank will be allowed to accept Central Bank deposits under Modaraba.

He said that in Egypt, "the Central Bank checks up on Islamic banks. It is first in the community's interest, then the depositors and finally the shareholders."

US-Soviet trade treaty still possible: Baker

WASHINGTON, May 28. (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker said today it was possible that the United States and the Soviet Union could sign a trade treaty this week, even though beneficial tariff treatment would not yet be given to Soviet exports.

President Bush announced on Thursday that it would be difficult to give the Soviet Union Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariff status because of its crackdown on Lithuania as well as its failure to codify a liberal emigra-

tion law.

Another precondition for MFN status, a general bilateral trade agreement, has all but been agreed to by US and Soviet negotiators.

Asked in a television interview on Sunday if a trade agreement could be reached at the summit this week between Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Baker said, "well, it's not off the table."

But he told CBS television that the Soviets

had to approve a free emigration law and "that legislation has not been passed."

The emigration law and the trade agreement are necessary for Bush to approve MFN treatment, which would levy on Soviet exports to the United States the same lower five to 10 per cent tariffs that America's best trading partners pay.

Some tariffs on Soviet goods are now five times those amounts.

Tax-free status for expatriates to continue

MUSCAT, Oman, May 28. (AP): The government has pledged to continue the sultanate's tax-free status for foreign workers, the official English-language Daily Observer reported today.

The announcement followed a period of uncertainty as to whether a state levy on foreign remittances would be enforced to offset the budget deficit in the face of weakened oil prices.

The sultanate relies heavily on its foreign workforce, estimated at 300,000 comprising mostly Third World workers and a 4,500 British force.

Like other countries in the oil-rich Gulf, Oman imposes no personal income tax on its 1.5 million population. A voluntary personal donation named zakat amounting to 1 rial (\$2.5) a year is requested for charity.

Forecasting 5 per cent economic growth this year, the paper quoted Oman's state's senior planning official as saying "categorically" that the government was not considering imposing any restrictions on foreign remittances by expatriates working in Oman.

Development Council Secretary-General Mohammed Yousef said the economy had "started to pick up" and he predicted 7 per cent growth in the non-oil sector for 1990.



Steve Adams (left) and John With pictured during their visit to the GCC.

Specialists visit Kuwait's AMG

TWO senior quality control specialists from Ford Motor Company's US headquarters have been in Kuwait as part of a regional tour to study standards of quality at Ford's GCC dealership.

The visit of Steve Adams and John With to Arabian Motors Group was in support of Ford's commitment to continually improve its product quality, in line with the current Quality Commitment-Process (QCP) programme.

Steve Adams has spent 36 years with Ford in body and assembly operations quality con-

trol, working in seven different North American assembly plants.

He recently took up a new appointment as manager of Customer Service and International Quality to specialise in export quality control.

John With, supervisor of technical services and training for Ford international export sales, has been closely involved with quality standards at regional dealerships since Ford's return to the GCC three years ago.

"Our visit to the GCC has involved studying the complete

spectrum of dealership operations, from product imports and storage to after-sales service," said Steve Adams.

"We've been tremendously impressed by the progress and initiatives being undertaken by the regional dealerships to achieve improved levels of customer service."

Ford's QCP programme, the only one of its type by a car manufacturer selling in the GCC markets, is aimed at continually improving service standards through dialogue with customers.

Trial to begin over Italy's biggest banking failure

MILAN, May 28. (Reuters): Thirty-five people go on trial in Milan on Tuesday for involvement in the \$1.3 billion crash of Banco Ambrosiano in 1982, a scandal which shook Italy's political and financial establishment.

But the main figure in Italy's biggest private bank collapse will not be present. Ambrosiano chairman Roberto Calvi, dubbed "God's Banker" because of his close ties to the Vatican, was found hanged under London's Blackfriars Bridge shortly before the scandal broke.

Among the defendants, all facing charges of fraudulent bankruptcy, are Licio Gelli, grandmaster of the Secret Propaganda Due (P2) Masonic Lodge, Italian businessman and P2 member Umberto Ortolani, former secret service agent Francesco Pazienza and 5 ex-members of the bank's board.

Gelli was extradited to Italy in 1988 to face charges over the collapse after five years on the run in South Africa. He has been tem-

porarily freed pending the outcome of the trial.

The prosecution indictment says the Vatican Bank bore heavy responsibility for the collapse through its links to Ambrosiano.

But Italy's constitutional court in 1988 quashed arrest warrants for the Vatican Bank's former chairman, American Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, and two bank executives on the grounds that the Vatican institution was exempt from Italian law.

The Vatican has admitted some involvement and has paid about \$250 million to bank creditors as a goodwill gesture. But it has repeatedly denied causing the collapse.

The trial is expected to last more than a year because defence lawyers are requesting fresh audits of the defunct bank's accounts.

"It is a complex case, it's difficult to say exactly how long the trial will last," said prosecutor Pierluigi Dell'osso, who has

probed the Ambrosiano affair for more than seven years.

He said about 200 witnesses could testify. If the defence motions seeking the audits are granted, witnesses may not start testifying until September. Tuesday's opening session is expected to be taken up by procedural issues.

Investigators believe the 35 accused joined Calvi to build a complex web of foreign companies, including some in South America and the Bahamas to buy shares in Banco Ambrosiano and carry out a series of fraudulent financial deals.

A London inquest into Calvi's death returned an open verdict, overturning the findings of a previous inquiry that the banker, a P2 member, committed suicide.

"It has not been easy trying to piece together the puzzle when the main figure is dead," said one investigator involved in the seven-year investigation.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rate lower against dollar

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded lower against the dollar ending the week at 291.32 fils compared with its week before last closing of 290.56 fils. The KD was also lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 493.55 fils compared with its week before last closing of 489.24 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market reports.

The KD was higher against the DM ending the week at 174.44 fils compared with its week before last closing of 177.38 fils. The KD was also higher against the SFR ending the week at 205.76 fils compared with its week before last closing of 208.17 fils.

The KD was higher against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 246.20 fils compared with its week before last closing of 247.59 fils. The KD was lower against the Australian dollar ending the week at 223.08 fils compared with its week before last closing at 221.04 fils.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 433.51 fils compared with its week before last closing of 433.03 fils. The KD traded slightly lower against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last.

As for the KD money market rates, short-term interbank offer rates, traded slightly higher compared to their previous rates. One month and 3 months rates traded around 8.75 per cent - 8.81 per cent range compared to 8.62 per cent - 8.81 per cent range the week before last. On the other hand, both 6-month and 12-month rates traded within a narrow range at 8.81 per cent - 8.87 per cent same as the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced a new 6-month T-bill issue No. (122) of KD150 million, with effective and maturity dates of May 30, and November 28, 1990.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices moved higher over the week, but closed easier, on heavy losses in technology stocks, a week bond market and dollar. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2844 and closed at 2821, recording a slight gain of 1 point over the previous week's closing of 2820.

After moving higher earlier in the week, share prices on the London Stock Exchange eased later in the week in response to early losses on Wall Street and further weakness on the FTSE futures market. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2282, and closed lower at 2258, recording a loss of 11 points over the previous week's closing at 2269.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, May 28. (Reuters): Stocks closed well up on the day on a strong yen, but off their highs on profit-taking after an early surge. The Nikkei rose 397.73 to close at 33,191.61.

SYDNEY: The market closed firmer, reversing course after a lower-than-expected April balance of payments deficit. The All Ordinaries index ended 5.5 up at 1,485.2.

HONG KONG: The market was closed for a holiday.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed lower after a day of quiet trading, with activity dampened by holidays in Hong Kong, Britain and the United States. The Straits Times index fell 8.02 to 1,557.33.

BOMBAY: Shares soared on heavy buying at the start of the new account, propelling the exchange index to an all-time high of 810.15, up 23.05. Brokers said the onset of pre-monsoon showers boosted the market.

Share prices on the Tokyo Stock Market firmed last week as the yen broke through 150 to the dollar for the first time in more than two-and-a-half months, fuelling already strong buying sentiment in the stock market. However, brokers are sceptical of the market's ability to maintain the rally. The 225-share Nikkei index opened the week at 31,845 and closed higher at 32,793, recording a gain of 780 points over the previous week's closing at 32,013.

The US dollar traded firm early in the week, but was easier later on.

Home sales fell 2.1 per cent in April to their lowest level in almost a year, the industry remains in a slump caused by its persistently high mortgage rates.

US 1st quarter 1990 trade report showed a deficit of \$26.37 billion, down from \$28.75 billion in the 4th quarter 1989. The 1Q deficit was the smallest since the 4Q of 1983 when the deficit was \$21.7 billion. Both exports and imports were at record levels in the 1990 first quarter. The increase in exports reflected higher shipments of capital goods, industrial supplies and materials and consumer goods. The lower volume of imported goods included consumer items, non-petroleum industrial supplies and materials, primarily gold.

April personal income rose 0.3 per cent (the smallest since a 0.2 per cent rise in September 1989) after rising 0.8 per cent in March. While April personal consumption rose 0.6 per cent (the largest since January's 1.2 per cent rise) after rising 0.5 per cent in the previous month. The savings rate fell to 5.5 per cent in April from 5.8 per cent in March.

Market sentiment is slightly bullish toward the dollar against the mark, due to the uncertainty surrounding German monetary union. Despite the yen's rebound, there is scepticism about US currency falling dramatically in the near-term.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling opened the week against dollar at \$1.6860/70 and closed sharply higher at \$1.6900/10, compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6485/95. The pound continued firm last week on hopes of its early entry into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), on high UK interest rates and the mark's weakness which stems from uncertainty over German monetary union.

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major ruled out a cut in British interest rates until there was more easing. Tight monetary policy, with bank base rates at 15 per cent since October, was already forcing inflation down

according to many indicators. However, there needed to be more signs that the economy was righting itself before rates could be relaxed.

The higher than expected rise in M0 narrow money supply was counterbalanced by a much lower than anticipated rise in bank lending in April. M0 rose an annual seasonally adjusted 7.3 per cent, while M4 bank and building society lending was up just £3.9 billion.

The pound is likely to remain steady in the short-term, underpinned by the high level of UK interest rates.

Japanese yen

The Japanese yen opened the week against dollar at 153.70/80 yen and closed sharply higher at 149.24/45 yen, compared to its week before last closing at 153.00/10 yen.

The yen rallied on Friday, partly due to the mark's weakness and partly due to a technical correction. Worry over the stability of the Tokyo Stock Market has been recently alleviated, helping to boost the yen. The higher closing of the Nikkei index on Friday, combined with recent US economic data suggesting sluggish growth has helped the yen regain upward momentum.

A senior Bank of Japan official said he welcomes the yen's recent rebound to a range of 150-155 yen to the dollar, but said he would be more comfortable with a slightly stronger yen. He also said that while domestic wholesale and consumer prices remain stable, BOJ remains worried about inflationary expectations. Still, the drop in the equity markets in the first quarter may have cooled such expectations.

The yen is likely to continue its ascent in the near-term, helped by the mark's weakness and technical factors.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the dollar at 1.6633/43 marks and closed lower at 1.6900/10 marks, compared to its week before last closing at 1.6485/95 marks.

The market has remained under pressure from uncertainty over the terms and economic impact of German monetary union. The latest blow has come from news that Chancellor Kohl's partners in the West German ruling coalition have joined the opposition in calling for amendments in the proposed treaty on monetary union. Earlier last week West German opposition Social Democrats (SPD) has said the treaty should include extra safeguards to prevent mass East German bankruptcies and unemployment and provide added environmental protection.

Nikkei stock average: 33191.61			
+397.73			
Volume: 750 mil shs			
Yen exchange rate: 149.45			
Names of stock	Ch	Ch	
Advantest Corp	3260	+10	
Ajinomoto	2110	+10	
Alps Electric	2220	+10	
Amada	1760	+30	
Asahi Chem Ind	937	+10	
Asahi Glass	1890	+10	
C. Itoh Co.	955	+14	
Cannon Inc.	1760	+10	
Casio Corp	1630	+10	
Dai Nippon Printing	1970	+10	
Daichi Sengaku	2470	+20	
Dainippon Ph	2800	0	
Daishinku Corp	1700	+30	
Esai	1870	+10	
Fanuc Ltd	7200	0	
Fuji Photo	4080	0	
Fujitsu Ltd	1430	+20	
Hitachi Credit	1720	+30	
Hitachi Koki	2270	+20	
Hitachi Ltd	1560	0	
Hitachi Metal	1580	+20	
Honda Motor	1790	+10	
ItoYokado Co	4130	0	
Kajima Corp	1930	+10	
Kawasaki H. I	1800	+70	
Kobe Cast Iron	1800	+10	
Kokusai Elec	4800	+40	
Komatsu Ltd	1200	+30	
Kyocera Corp	7710	+110	
Matsushita	3640	+10	
Matsushita Ind	3640	+30	
Mazda Electric	2180	+20	
Mazda M.C.	920	+14	
Mitsubishi Corp	1610	+30	
Mitsubishi Estate	1710	+40	
Mitsubishi H. I	1050	+10	
Mitsui R. E.	2010	+60	
Mitsui Corp	1760	+10	
Mori Seiki Co.	3850	+40	
NEC Corp	2220	+20	
Nissan Corp	1530	+20	
Nippon Shun Co	1200	+10	
Nippon Steel Corp	635	+10	
Nippondenso	2280	+20	
Nissankyo Corp	2380	+20	
Numara Sec	1490	+20	
Okuma Mach	1670	+100	
Osawa K. Co.	2030	+10	
Pioneer Elec Co	4600	+140	
Removal Lock Inc	6050	+20	
Sanyo Elec Co	1930	+20	
Sanyo Co. Ltd.	996	+48	
Shin-Etsu Chem	5980	+10	
Shindengen Elec	1710	+30	
Sony Corp	1320	+30	
Sanyosha Elec Ind.	8600	+50	
Sanyosha Elec Ind.	1570	0	
Taketa Chemical	1800	+5	
TDK Corp	1900	+10	
Tokai Marine & Fire	6670	+10	
Tokyo Elec Corp	1600	+20	
Tokyo Electron Ltd	4990	+60	
Toshiba Printing	1840	+80	
Toshiba Ind Inc	840	+3	
Toshiba Corp	1110	+10	
Toyota Motor	2460	+10	
Yaskawa Elec	1050	0	
Provided by Numara Investment			
Banking (Midland) Bazarin			

Children mauled: strays roam the streets

British risk turning from dog lovers to fearers

By Julia Hayley

LONDON. (Reuters): The pit bull Terrier has been howling for hours on a small second floor balcony on a public housing estate in southeast London.

"Sometimes it's out there until two or three o'clock in the morning," says the woman, downstairs, glancing uneasily at the potential killer on her roof.

Attacks by savage dogs such as pit bulls now make headline news in Britain. Rottweilers, a breed virtually unknown two or three years ago, crop up with increasing frequency in newspaper cartoons and bar conversation.

The British risk turning from a nation of dog lovers to one of dog fearers, and with some justification, say those involved in dealing with dangerous and stray dogs.

Many of the calls made by Tim Wass, inspector for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), are to check on large, often fierce dogs shut out on balconies while their owners are at work.

Wass says it will not be long before American pit bull Terriers, which killed 22 people in the United States last year, join the estimated half a million stray dogs on Britain's streets.

Alsatians, Doberman Pinschers and occasionally Rottweilers are already among the packs of often wild and

uncontrolled dogs roaming inner city housing estates.

Some 12 years ago pit bull Terriers, whose 2,000 pound per square inch bite can crush a child's skull in an instant, cost around £3,000 (\$5,880), Wass says. Now they go for as little as £30 (\$50).

The dogs are becoming increasingly fashionable in Britain, particularly in the poor inner city areas, both as guard dogs and much to accessories for young men.

They are the centre of an illegal dog fighting network and are popular with drug dealers who sometimes stash their goods under the dog's collars.

Bull Terriers were originally used to herd and bring down bulls, but American pit bull Terriers have been selectively bred for 300 years to do nothing but kill an opponent. They will naturally attack dogs, but can be trained to go for people.

Selected for their fighting skills rather than looks, pit bulls come in many sizes and colours. They are generally large, with narrow eyes and, above all, immensely strong.

Pit Bull News, a restricted circulation magazine for the dog fighting fraternity, carries accounts of weight pulling competitions alongside the fight results. The 1989 champion, Max, won by shifting a load of 2,415 pounds (1,090 kgs).

With no dog registration it is impossible to tell how many pit bull Terriers



Stray dogs pose a danger to children

there are in Britain but Wass says the London numbers run into thousands, with densest population in the poor

area of Peckham in the southeast of the city. And now that they are so cheap, pit

bulls are more likely to be abandoned on the streets — a frightened prospect. "We've just passed a shop where a

pit bull with only three legs it had been in a car accident put three people in hospital six months ago," said Wass.

A police report, obtained by the producers of a recent television programme on savage dogs, says "Incidents can be expected" if there are no curbs on vicious dogs.

RSPCA inspectors and local authority dog catchers often go out looking for dogs like police in riot gear, carrying shields and long metal poles with nooses on the end known as graspers and wearing padded gauntlets.

"And that's not enough," Wass says.

He is often called to dawn raids on drug dealers if the police know there is a dangerous dog in the house. He can control a 50 pound (22 kg) pit bull a grasper he says, but does not relish an encounter with a Bandog, a new cross of any of several fierce breeds such as Rottweiler, Rhodesian Ridgeback and Bullmastiff.

Small children are particularly at risk from pit bull Terriers because dogs may mistake them for canine opponents.

Early this month British newspapers carried pictures of a 4-year-old girl who was mauled by an Alsatian and a Rottweiler and needed 200 stitches in her face.

"Had it been a pit bull, she wouldn't be alive," Wass says.

On the day the story appeared parliament threw out a proposal to bring in compulsory dog registration which had the support of government and opposition politicians. The RSPCA has long been campaigning for registration as a means of controlling strays, identifying the owner of a dog and prosecuting those responsible for attacks on people or cruelty to the animals.

Dog licences were abolished two years ago. Priced at 37.5 pence (60 cents), they were not cost effective to administer, a government spokesman said. Nothing has replaced them.

Battersea Dog's Home, a charity which deals with many of London's stray dogs either by finding them new owners or killing them, is running a trial registration scheme and has put electronic identity tags into 3,000 dogs it has re-sold. Bill Wadman-Taylor, manager and resident veterinary surgeon at Battersea, hopes that if the scheme proves successful it will be introduced nationally.

The RSPCA alone kills 1,000 stray dogs a day because there are too many to settle.

The government opposes registration.

"It would be the irresponsible owners that wouldn't take out registration... it would be bureaucratic and the burden would fall on those who complied," said a spokesman for the Department of the Environment.

More mouths to feed poses famine danger

Green revolution falters

By Ben Hirscher

WAGENINGEN, Netherlands. (Reuters): High yielding varieties of rice and wheat that have held famine at bay for millions of the world's poor over the past 25 years may no longer be able to do the job.

The so-called "Green Revolution" that introduced tough, grain-laden varieties of paddy rice to the Third World enabled rice yields to double between 1960 and 1987. But scientists say yields have stagnated recently, though the need for high productivity remains as urgent as ever.

"We now have a problem of yields levelling off," said Klaus Lampe, director-general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), creator of the Green Revolution with its crop development programme.

Yields need to be increased by 10 million tonnes a year just to prevent current levels of malnutrition and hunger worsening, Lampe said.

The IRRI, based in the Philippines, expects world rice demand to rise to 760 million tonnes by 2020 from around 500 million today. It estimates 4.3 billion of the earth's projected population of eight billion in 2020 will be rice consumers.

Crop researchers in the Netherlands for a meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) said increased yields are the only chance of raising food production, because farmers in the developing world are increasingly running up against finite resources of water and soil

nutrients.

"There is little scope to increase the land grains, so if we want to feed the world we will need a three to 3.5 per cent annual increase in wheat yields and a 3.5 to four per cent increase for maize," said Donald Winkelmann, director-general at the International Wheat and Maize Research Institute in Mexico.

"You have to be apprehensive whether that can be achieved."

A crescent of nine million hectares (22 million acres) of land that feeds 200 million people across the northern Indian sub-continent "demonstrates the problem," Winkelmann said.

Farmers in the region grow modern strains of rice in rotation with new wheat varieties pioneered at the Mexican Institute. But despite increased fertiliser use, yields are stagnating. Winkelmann said the reason is not clear but rising salinity as water levels fall may be one factor.

"There will inevitably be increasing sustainability problems of this sort as pressure on resources increases," he said.

Higher yielding varieties of rice and wheat are now grown on around 115 million hectares (248 million acres) throughout the world, producing 40 million more tonnes of grain each year than could be provided by traditional varieties with the same inputs, scientists said. The increase is enough to feed 500 million people.

However, the intensive cultivation techniques associated with these modern varieties has prompted criticisms that Third World farmers are too reliant on

multinational chemical companies for fertilisers and pesticides.

But John Mellor of the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute said such intensification is vital to protect the world's most fragile environments.

"A major problem is the rapid conversion of land from perennial crops, such as grasses or trees, to annual crops, like grains," he said.

"Only 10 per cent of the annual destruction of Third World forests is due to logging. The other 90 per cent is due to the incursion of agriculture, mostly by very poor people."

Plant breeders are continuing to search for still higher-yielding varieties. But the quantum leap achieved in the mid-1960s is not expected to be repeated.

Biotechnology should help speed the selection process but it is not a panacea due to the difficulties of inserting foreign genes in grain plants, Winkelmann said.

Increasing emphasis is being given to the needs of farmers in semi-arid areas, particularly in Africa where the green revolution has had no impact.

Heat- and disease-resistant varieties of grain hold out some hope, but the bulk of the continent is unlikely to ever see the jump in yields which brought food security to much of Asia in the 1970s and 1980s.

"There are 50 countries in the world which do not have enough resources to do local research — and most of them are in Africa," he said.

Rock singer deserves 'pity': author

Elvis image torn to pieces in new book

MEMPHIS, Tennessee. (UPI): Elvis Presley as a teenager was a shy, pimply-faced and lonely boy whose mother walked him to school until she convinced two neighbourhood boys to watch after him, says the author of a book about the rock 'n' roll legend.

And Jimmy Denson, who served as the rock 'n' roll legend's bodyguard during Presley's years at Humes High, said he is writing a book about Elvis' early years because he is tired of the "king" being worshipped.

"I'd love for it to be the last one (book) written about Elvis," said Denson, 62, who now lives in Memphis after some time as a private investigator in Houston. "That's why I've waited so long. No one who ever knew him could idolize the person I knew."

Denson, who calls his book *The Untold Story of Elvis: the Lauderdale Court Years*, said he expects to find a publisher soon and hopes for publication by 1992.

He is writing it for his friends who grew up with Elvis in a Memphis housing project and watched him grow into a larger-than-life figure. Denson plans to donate 90 per cent of the proceeds of the book to charity.

"I'm not doing this for greed," he said. "If I was, I could have sold this story years ago."

"No one child in the Lauderdale Courts thought they were beneath Elvis. He was the last person on earth destined for success," Denson said.

Denson's parents, who were Pentecostal preachers, moved to Lauderdale Courts in 1947, one year before Vernon Presley brought his wife Gladys and son Elvis from a shotgun shack in Tupelo, Mississippi. The Presleys attended the Densons' Poplar Street Mission.

Denson vividly remembers the first time he saw the 12-year-old Elvis, in January 1948.

"I was walking with my sisters to school. He was holding on to his mother's hand and didn't turn loose of his mother's hand all the way to Humes High. That afternoon, she was at the front door waiting on Elvis," Denson said.



Elvis Presley in his heyday. A new book about the rock king says the king was not what he was made out to be.

"I knew at first glance, when I saw him hanging on to his mama's hand, that he was a tragic figure. He was taunted and screamed at by the other children who called him a mama's baby, and when the acne began, it was even worse," he said.

Gladys Presley stopped walking her son to school one day when she had a doctor's appointment and asked Denson and his brother, Jesse Lee, to walk Elvis to school. After that, the Denson brothers, who both had won trophies as amateur boxers,

became Elvis' personal bodyguards and mentors.

The Denson brothers also taught Elvis how to play the guitar and sing, but it was a struggle, Denson recalled. Denson's account of Elvis' introduction to music differs with others who say Elvis' uncle first taught him guitar.

"Gladys Presley made every move for him. She made a deal with my mother that when they could save enough money to buy a guitar, my brother could teach him."

Jesse Lee didn't want to do it. He said he would have to fight everybody in North Memphis if he had to teach Elvis.

"But my mother made him do it. It took years for him to learn a dozen chords. Jesse Lee also taught him how to sing without the corn in his mouth. He spoke using guttural words and it took him two years to answer questions with a full sentence," Denson said.

But Elvis never learned to write songs, Denson said.

"All he could do was copy. He never wrote a song in his life. He had to hear the songs and then he could sing them," Denson said.

Elvis also was shy with girls," Denson said.

"No girl would speak to him," Denson said. "His mother once forbade him to play with one girl because she was too rough and tough. But he loved every pretty girl, even at a distance."

Betty Mcmahon, who casually dated Elvis for about five years, was more of a buddy to him, but Elvis became furious when they broke up, Denson said.

"Her new boyfriend used to take her to the movies on Friday night. And there was Elvis as the usher. He would give them a dirty look as he led them to their seats, and he would pace. And he would give them a dirty look when they left."

When Elvis was 17, he began to change, Denson said. He paid \$4 in 1954 to record a demo record at Sam Phillips' recording studio in Memphis. A year later, he recorded *Blue Moon of Kentucky* and *That's All Right, Mama*, and two years later, he was touring the United States.

He was still a "sweet kid," at that time, until he signed with Col Tom Parker, Denson said.

"Then he started believing his press reports," said Denson, who travelled with Elvis until 1956. "And I think drugs changed him. He wasn't brought up to drugs in his Pentecostal home, but once he got away, his mother had no control."

"He had six hits before Col Parker signed him and put him on national shows. 'The Ed Sullivan Show,' that was what clinched it."

Islamic group moves to curb belly dancing

'Adulterous filth'; dancers flogged

By Lee Stokes

CAIRO. (UPI): In the latest twist in the 70-year-old struggle between advocates of an Islamic state and Egypt's secular-oriented government, Islamic fundamentalists have targeted the centuries-old craft of belly dancing because they say the dance is immoral.

Mahmoud El Khodari, the 36-year-old leader of one fundamentalist group, boasted from his prison cell that his followers would flog any belly dancer caught performing her act.

"We beat up belly dancers we find to deter them from performing," said El Khodari, who was arrested recently for allegedly leading a group trying to set fire to a police car with the policeman still in it. The clash occurred after police shot to death a fundamentalist leader.

The hostility toward belly dancers is on religious grounds. Although belly dancing is thought to have originated in ancient Persia and remains popular throughout the Middle East, fundamentalists believe it is sinful because a woman should show herself only to her husband.

Fundamentalists seeking an alternative to violence have opted for lawsuits and other tactics to close down nightclubs.

Prominent fundamentalist lawyer Gafal Khalil Abdulrahman filed a lawsuit against the government last year, arguing that under Islamic law, all belly dancing venues should be closed.

Abdulrahman said that even though Egypt's constitution was not Islamic as such, it still claims inspiration from sharia, or Islamic law.

Justice Ministry officials do not expect a verdict until late this year, but nightclub owners fear his success would destroy both their lucrative trade and a colourful cultural tradition.

"What takes place in these nightclubs — drinking and belly dancing — is a violation of Islamic law," Abdulrahman said. "It is immoral, and should be stopped."

Some people in the Ministry of Tourism, which has also come under fire for promoting belly dancing in tourist literature, fear that a ban could deter foreign visitors and deprive cash-strapped Egypt of hard currency.

"Egypt is a tolerant country... any change will deter tourists," said one tourism official.

The anti-belly dancing lobby has also raised its voice in parliament. Although Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood was outlawed in the 1950s after an attempt to assassinate late president Gamal Abdel Nasser, supporters won about a quarter of the seats in parliament in 1987 — and have delivered some of the fiercest attacks on belly dancing.

"This is adulterous filth," fundamentalist deputy Maamoun El Hodeibi said at a recent parliamentary session. Hodeibi is a member of the Islamic Alliance, an umbrella group that includes the banned Muslim Brotherhood.

Despite the outcry, physical attacks on belly dancers and nightclubs remain relatively rare.

"This is because we have taken our own security measures," said Mohammad Zaghloul, the wealthy owners of one downtown Cairo nightclub. Extremists last

year used Molotov cocktails to start a fire that burned down a belly dancing establishment in the region.

Belly dancing establishments range from the sleazy, downtown clubs that attract lower income Egyptians to the plush clubs near the Giza pyramids, where wealthy Egyptians and Gulf Arabs every night throw small fortunes in bank notes at the feet of favourite dancers.

A recent visitor to one of Cairo's lesser establishments climbed five flights of trash-strewn steps to enter a dimly lit, dusty room, with a stage and five-piece orchestra in one corner, and small tables and chairs in another.

A beffy master of ceremonies introduced each dancer to an all-male audience who threw money at the dancers.

"I make good money to ensure my children have a better life," said Mimim, a 32-year-old dancer. "But I work very hard for my money."

She rejected arguments that belly dancing was immoral.

"Some think it is bad... but for me, it is in the heart of the people."

Belly dancing is so entrenched in Egypt's popular culture, that one of the country's favourite songs runs: *I love belly dancing*.

That is why some fundamentalists believe that if they can banish belly dancing, the walls preventing them from establishing an Islamic state will crumble.

For the belly dancers, making good money has obviously advantages in a country where the average weekly wage is \$25, but it offers little protection.

Wealthy belly dancers, especially the four or five top names, never leave home without their bodyguards. Rifle-toting, black-clad security police man roadblocks in areas where nightclubs abound.

Dancers such as Nagwa Fouad, Fifi Abdou and Soheir Zaki can earn up to \$2,000 from a brief appearance at a society wedding, where popular belief deems that a belly dancer brings good luck.

The attack against belly dancing has touched a raw nerve among many Egyptian intellectuals, who tend to promote the country's rich traditions in their writings, music and films.

Egyptian secular thinkers have long struggled to find a way of living with a resurgent wave of fundamentalism that some believe feeds on deteriorating living and educational standards.

The secular group received a boost when Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz won the 1988 Nobel prize for literature. Mahfouz often uses belly dancers as characters in his novels to portray the joys and traditions of Egypt's poor.

But President Hosni Mubarak's government, struggling to maintain a balance between a resurgent Islam and a need to modernise, bowed to fundamentalist pressure last year by banning scenes of belly dancing from state-run television.

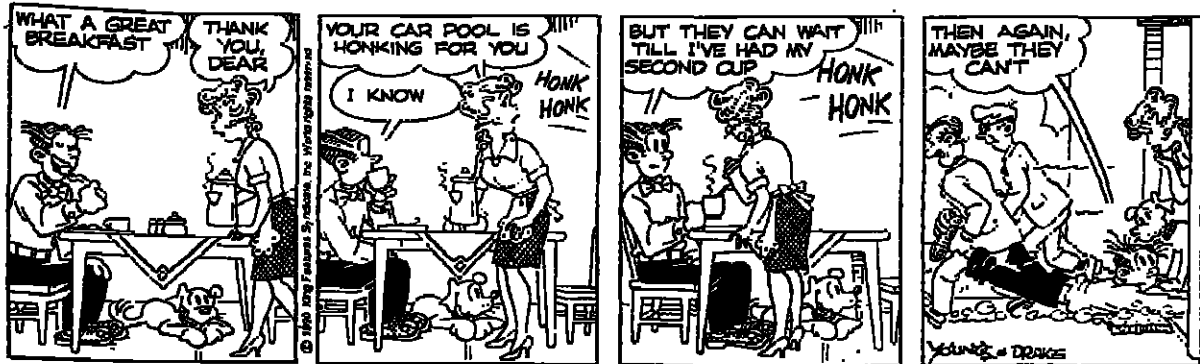
Writers such as Mahfouz, whose book, "The Children of Gebelawi" was banned as anti-Islamic, point out that fundamentalists are most angered when confronted with expressions of popular and political culture that do not conform to an Islamic stereotype.



Nagwa Fouad demonstrates the talent that has made her famous in Egypt. Nagwa and others may be banned.

BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



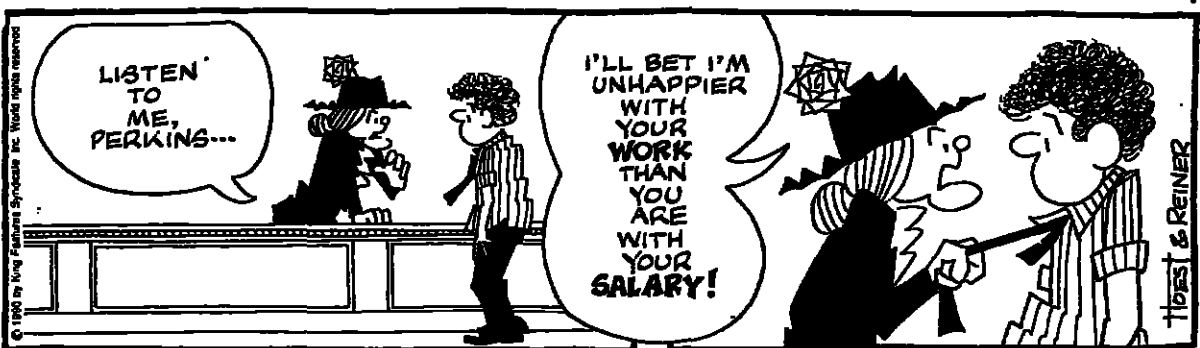
MAGNIFICENT

By Dick Brown



BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



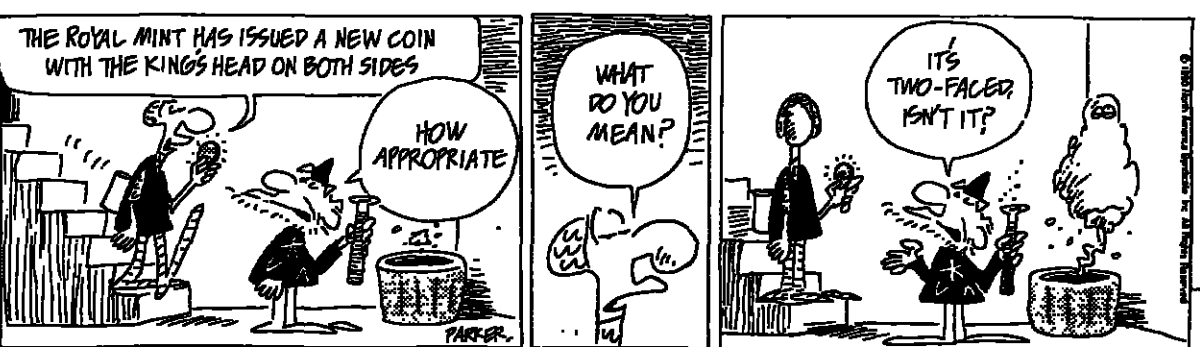
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Dick Brown



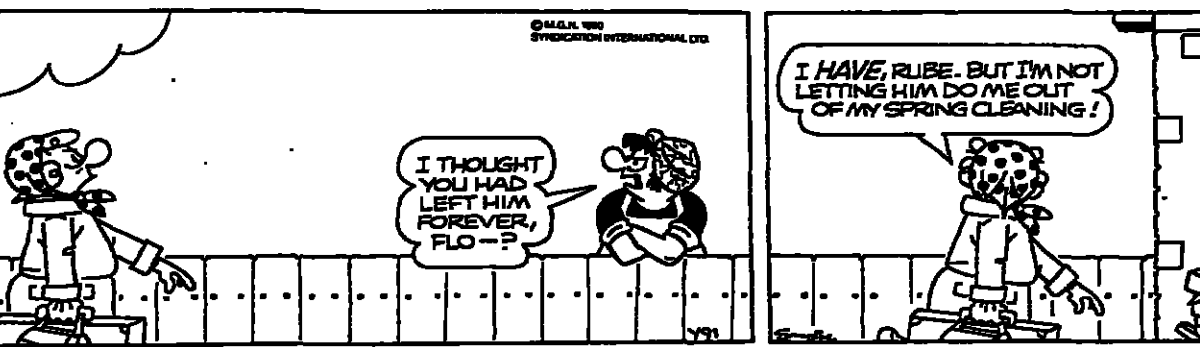
ANDY CAPE

By Dick Brown



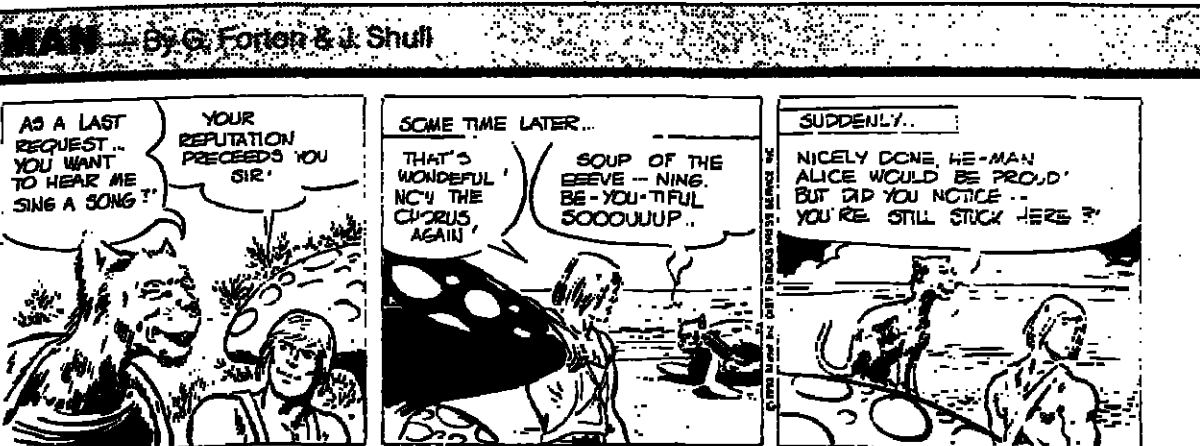
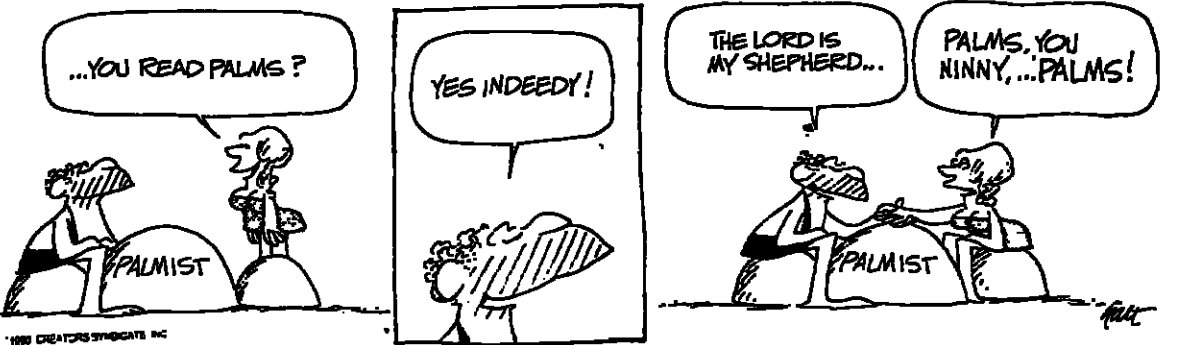
B.C.

By Johnny Hart

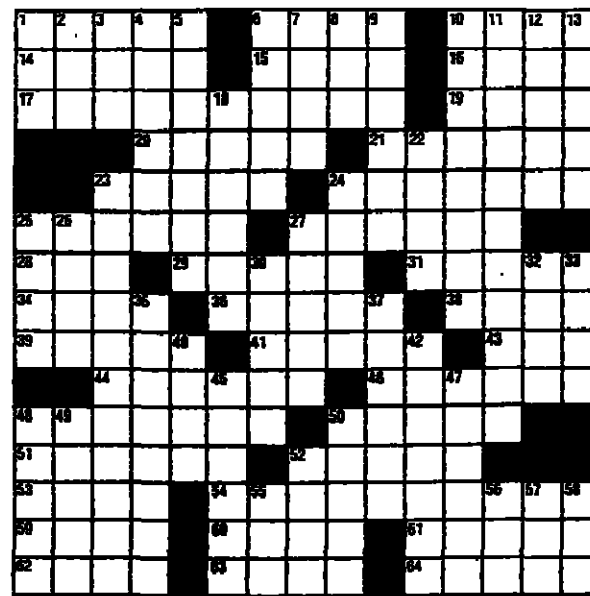


HE-MAN

By G. Forten & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Light beige
6 Landed
9 Shoe or palm
14 Move furthest
15 First of the three B's
16 Melville's captain
17 Capital of 11 Down
19 Trademark
20 Type style
21 "On — Pond"
23 Eliot's "Manner"
24 Seabird colony
25 State flower of 11 Down
27 Provencal ideal of courtly love
28 Catalina, for short
29 Betting window sign
31 Literary composition
34 Star in Cygnus
36 Jot
38 Twist
39 Shakespearean sprig
41 Fratern. survey
43 Alder tree
44 Revised a manuscript
46 Court game
48 Disney's "The Little —"
50 Chopped
51 — of: helped by
52 Kind of rockfish
53 U. of Maryland player
54 Flowered herb
59 Epochal
60 Aware, of
61 Employ anew
62 At-home

DOWN

- 1 Seventh sense, for short
2 Weather abbr.
3 The Grande, for one
4 Introduce
5 Frying pan
6 Supports
7 Narrow way
8 Fed. commerce agcy.
9 "Columbia, — of the Ocean"
10 Height
11 Ratified The Constitution May 29, 1790
12 Avid
13 Dark wood
18 Type of alga
22 Caen's river
23 Militant crustacean
24 Refreshing drink
25 Traveler's permit
26 Danube tributary
27 Ais out
30 Telegraphed
32 Ear Comb. form
33 Urges
35 State tree of 11 Down
37 Motor Inns
40 Teller of tall tales
42 Resort city in 11 Down
45 Headcover of yore
47 Closer
48 Bishop's headress
49 January, in Madrid
50 "— a clue"
52 Before long
55 Single
56 Regret
57 Compass pt.
58 Directed

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BAISIS ISLE SPA
ELUDE UNLIT PIG
LABOR OF LOVE UKE
TIS EBOATS AMEN
CENTS OPERA
GIRDER SWINE
AVID UMPIRE ADA
LABOR DAY PARADES
ENE HERREN BOLE
RADII IBERIA
STROP CARTA
HIED CAPONE TIA
RAH LABORS AVING
ERA AMEND DIODE
WAN CEDE SIANER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

FIND THE KILLING LEAD

North-South vulnerable. West ways retreat to clubs. Once the heart fit was located, North elected to compete rather than defend.

NORTH

♠ K 10 6
♥ Q J 8 3
♦ A 5
♣ K J 8 4

WEST

♠ J 9 8 4
♥ A 10
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ A 5 3

EAST

♠ Q 7 3 2
♥ 5 4
♦ K Q 10 9 4 2
♣ 9

SOUTH

♠ A 5
♥ K 9 7 6 2
♦ 7
♣ Q 10 7 6 2

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 ♠ 3 ♦ 3 ♠

5 ♦ 5 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

Books have been written on the subject of opening leads, but you cannot lay down rules to cover all situations. For instance, look only at the West hand and the bidding. Then decide what you would lead against South's five-heart contract.

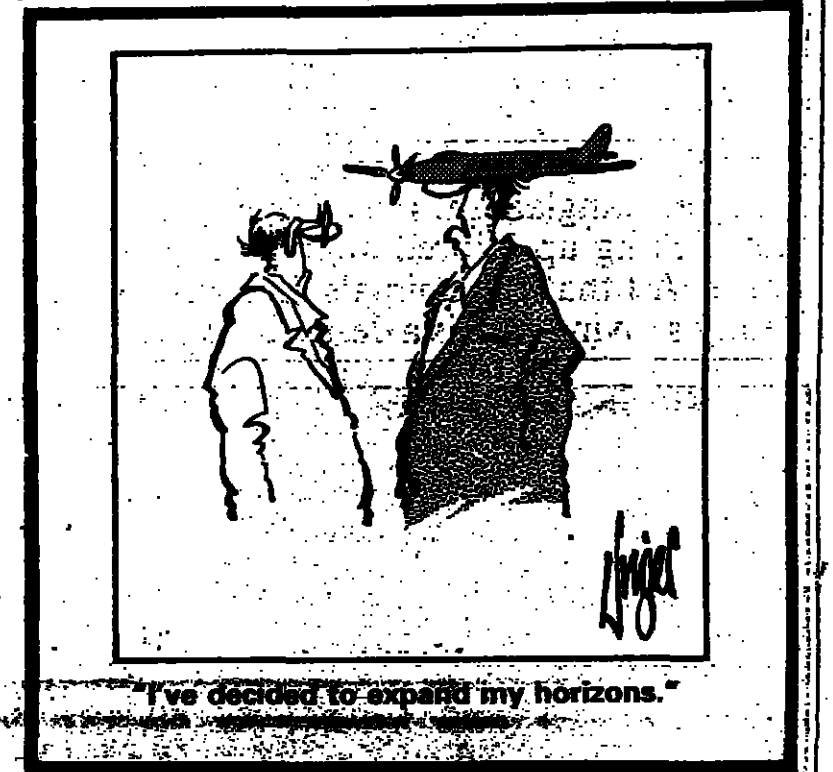
With such a huge fit for opener's suit, there was no way East's preempt was going to keep South out of the auction. If partner did not have support for hearts, South could al-

seem, was to find East with either a singleton club, or a doubleton club with at least two hearts. So Pavlick led the ace of clubs and another. East's ruff sealed declarer's fate quickly.

Had East held a doubleton club, West intended winning the first trump lead and continuing with a third club. The whole defense, especially the choice of opening lead, was built around the fact that West had control of the trump suit.

The most likely chance, it seemed, was to find East with either a singleton club, or a doubleton club with at least two hearts. So Pavlick led the ace of clubs and another. East's ruff sealed declarer's fate quickly.

Had East held a doubleton club, West intended winning the first trump lead and continuing with a third club. The whole defense, especially the choice of opening lead, was built around the fact that West had control of the trump suit.



You will feel in high spirits and must beware of doing anything rash or silly. Do not allow your emotions to overtake the dictates of reason. Avoid acting from motives of jealousy or envy. Be helpful.



You must beware of spending more money than you can readily afford. Do not take too long to reply to a letter. Make sure you face up to reality and do not try to evade a promise you have made. Be considerate.



Make sure you are not late for an appointment let alone forgetting it altogether. You should try to remain strictly practical, not too much in the clouds. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be reasonable.



It would be wrong to ignore some small infection, if you do it could well become worse. You will get some small advice but it will not be easy to take it. You will be able to consolidate a gain you have made recently. Be tactful.



Something you have long been meaning to do should not be delayed any further. Do not just let things happen but do not try to change the inevitable. You should seek to use just the little more commonsense. Be tolerant.



You should think less of yourself more of those close to you. And seek to avoid doing anything which you know would be on your conscience. Make sure you do not do anything that could be bad for your health. Be hopeful.



You will be rather tempted to eat too many sweet things — desert. Now is a good time to make a few changes, but consider them carefully first. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be alert.



You are liable to lead a too sedentary life, do try to take a little more gentle exercise and to spend some time in the open air. Make sure you avoid all exaggerations and distortions. Listen to what others have to say. Be credible.



You will find it easier to do something that you had been having difficulties with. However do not rest on your laurels, use them as a stepping stone to further progress. Have a good laugh at yourself and the situation you are in. Be practical.



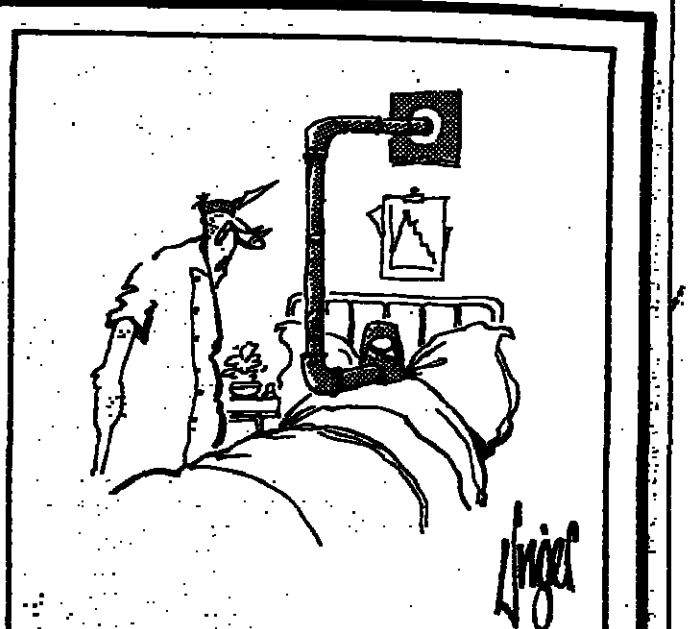
Not everything is to your liking, but you will be able to adapt. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 32. Do not just hope things will improve, try to do something positive towards it. Do not degrade yourself by being jealous or malicious. Be confident.



Something you had thought would be easy will turn out not to be. Never mind, just persevere and all will be well in the end. Take a little more care of your personal appearance and hygiene. Be generous.



Do not expect to have everything your own way but do not just let things happen either. Avoid being too critical nor take too much for granted. Concern yourself more with something that interests your partner. Be frugal.



JUNIOR TIMES

Dance: a universal experience

WHenever we hear music with a strong rhythm, we seem to have a natural urge to tap our feet or move our bodies in time with it. This feeling is really a desire to dance, and people throughout the ages have experienced it. People everywhere dance, and every country has developed its own special kinds of dancing. Traditional folk dances, based on events in everyday life, such as harvesting or falling in love, are found in every country.

Watching other people dance is also enjoyable, and dancing has been a popular form of entertainment for centuries. Just as Salome entertained King Herod in Palestine with her dance of the seven veils, so do modern ballet companies or dancers in stage musicals provide enjoyment for theatre audiences today.

But people dance not only for enjoyment or to entertain others. Members of simple tribal communities in Africa and elsewhere believed that dancing has a magical power. They danced to please their gods or ancestor spirits in order to ensure good hunting, abundant crops, or ample rain.

Throughout history, dancing has been used to tell stories. Traditional Indian Manipuri and

Kathak dances, European ballet and Communist Chinese ballet, with its strong political lessons, are examples. People in ancient times danced to express their feelings or to please their gods or their rulers. The ancient Greeks considered dancing a great art, essential for physical health.

In Europe, ordinary people continued to dance their traditional dances throughout the Middle Ages. In the houses of the nobles, more stately kinds of dance developed, such as the minuet and later the waltz. Comedy-ballets performed as part of the entertainment at the court of King Louis XIV of France were the origin of modern ballet. A wide variety of dances became popular among ordinary people from the 1700s, including the polka, waltz, and many others. Some were brief fashions, such as the Cakewalk and Black Bottom. Young people dancing today have rediscovered the basic purpose of dancing: to express joy simply by moving their bodies as they feel, in time to the music.

Famous People in Dancing
Astron, Sir Frederick (William Mallowdaine) (born 1906), a choreographer, was born in

Ecuador. He was both a dancer and a choreographer with Ballet Club (later Ballet Rambert) and the Vic-Wells company (later the Royal Ballet), and later a director of the Royal Ballet. The many ballets he created include *Cinderella*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Les Patineurs*, and *A Month in the Country*. His ballets are noted for their classical, lyrical beauty.

Astaire, Fred (Frederick Austerlitz) (born 1899), American dancer and actor, began his career dancing in vaudeville and musicals with his sister Adele. He then made many films, the most successful including *Flying Down to Rio*, *Top Hat*, and *Follow the Fleet*, in which he partnered Ginger Rogers. In later years he played non-dancing roles in films.

De Valais, Dame Nilette (Edris Stannus) (born 1898), born in Ireland, was first a dancer in the Vic-Wells company (later the Royal Ballet) and directed it until 1963. The many ballets she choreographed include *Cheekmate*, *Job*, and *The Rake's Progress*.

Diaghilev, Sergei (1872-1929), a great Russian impresario, created the famous Ballets Russes

company that toured Europe and North and South America between 1909 and 1929. His company amazed audiences everywhere with its superb dancers, such as Nijinsky, its brilliant choreography, bright sets, and exciting music.

Duncan, Isadora (1878-1927), influential American dancer, created an individual style of dancing based on simple, natural, and graceful movement, such as walking and running. She danced barefoot, dressed in simple tunics and long, flowing scarves, on a stage without any scenery.

Fokine, Michel (1880-1942), Russian-born dancer and choreographer, helped to create a more natural style of ballet. He choreographed over 60 ballets, most of them for Diaghilev's company. His best-known include *The Firebird*, *Le Spectre de la Rose*, *Les Sylphides*, and *Petrushka*.

Fonteyne, Dame Margot (Margaret Hookham) (born 1919), an English ballerina, joined the Vic-Wells Ballet (now the Royal Ballet) in 1934 and became its leading ballerina. She also danced as a guest artist with many other international companies. One of her most famous

roles is Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Helpmann, Sir Robert (born 1909), an Australian choreographer and actor, became a dancer in the Vic-Wells Ballet (now the Royal Ballet) in 1933 and has appeared with it ever since. He also acted in plays and films, such as *The Red Shoes*. The many ballets he choreographed include *Hamlet*, *Mousette in the Gorbals*, *The Day after Tomorrow*, and *Yugen*. He was also a director of the Australian Ballet.

Kelly, Gene (born 1912), American dancer, choreographer, actor, and director, danced and acted in many stage and film musicals, such as *For Me and My Gal*. He choreographed and appeared in others, such as *An American in Paris*, and directed and danced in still others, including *Singin' in the Rain*. He has also acted in non-dancing roles in many other films.

Nijinsky, Vaslav (1890-1950), born in Russia, is regarded by many as the world's greatest ever ballet dancer. He was noted for his high leaps and brilliant entrances. He joined Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in 1909, and became famous for his roles in such ballets as *Petrushka*. He also created several ballets, including *The Afternoon of a Faun* and *The Rite of Spring*. He later became mentally ill.

Nureyev, Rudolf (born 1938), a Russian ballet dancer, choreographer, and producer, began his career in the Kirov Ballet in 1958. When on tour with the company in Paris in 1961, he ran away. He then danced with various companies in the West, and formed a long partnership with Margot Fonteyn in the Royal Ballet. He is greatly admired for his technical skill and intense acting ability. He has also choreographed and produced ballets for many leading companies throughout the world.

Pavlova, Anna (1881-1931), a Russian ballerina who studied in England, was prima ballerina in the Imperial Russian Ballet from 1906 to 1913. She also danced abroad and appeared with Diaghilev's company. In 1914, she formed her own company and toured the world with her repertoire of classics. She was noted for her graceful movement and her soaring leaps. Her most famous roles were in *The Swan* and *The Autumn Sacchamale*.

Ulanova, Galina (born 1910), one of Russia's greatest ballerinas, danced in the Kirov Ballet from 1928 to 1944 and the Bolshoi Ballet until 1962. A fine actress as well as a superb dancer, she gave memorable performances in such ballets as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Giselle*.

Happy birthday



Rakesh Vasani turns 8 today, May 24.



Girish Chandran turned 12 on May 23.



Farhan Mukadam turned 6 on May 25.



Farhana Mustafa turned 7 on May 23.



Sonia Varghese turned 4 on May 28.



Abha Ahuja turns 7 on May 30.



Siddharth Mehra turns 1 today May 29.



Fahd Al Abdel Ghani turned 5 on May 13.



Far left: Tribal dancing in southern Africa. Dancing is an important part of tribal life. There are special ceremonial dances for bringing victory or rain, or for warding off evil spirits. Births, marriages, and initiation ceremonies are also celebrated by special dances. And even as primitive peoples become more integrated into the modern world, they still retain much of their traditional dance.

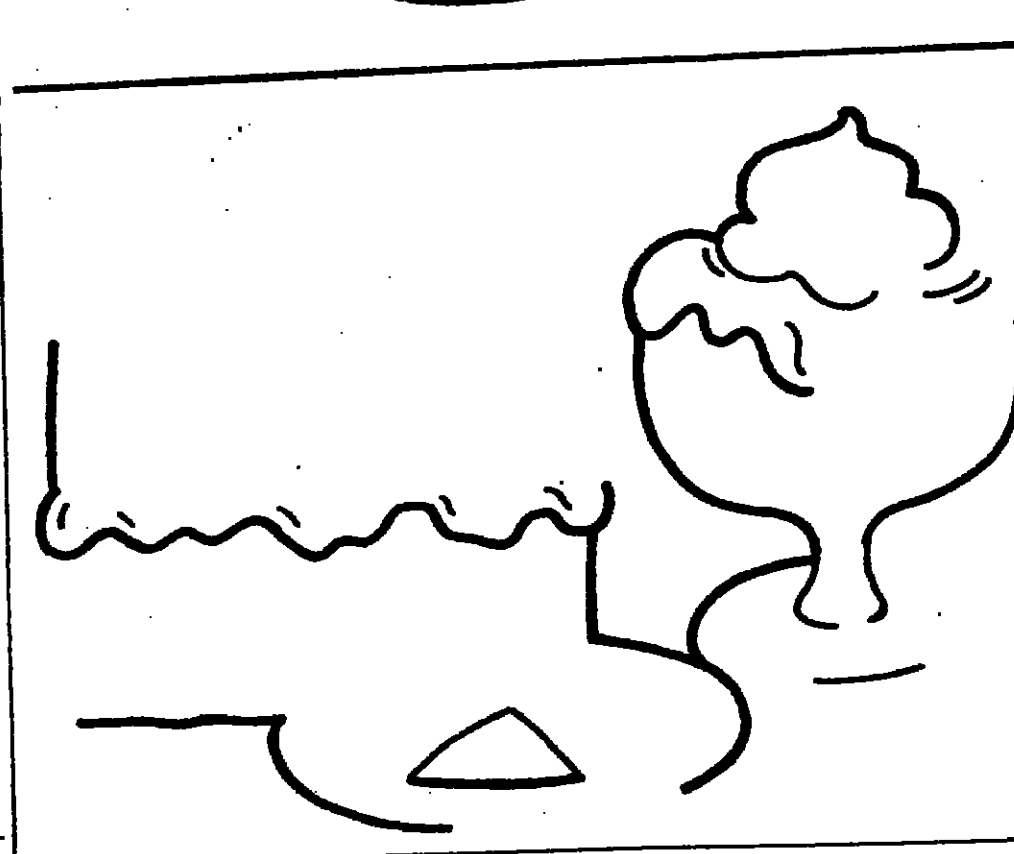
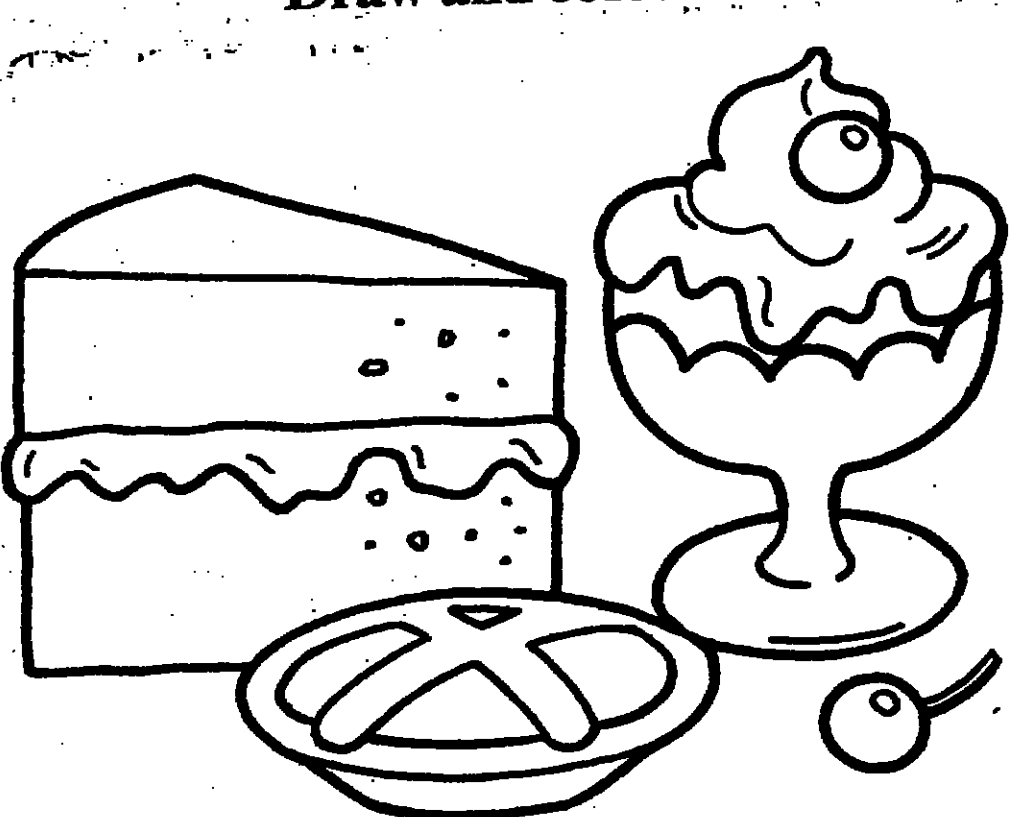
Left: The legendary Nijinsky in *Le Spectre de la Rose* (1911).

Above: A pas de deux.

Dot-to-dot



Draw and colour



Write the correct answer in the box.

- $\frac{1}{3}$ of 3 is
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of 4 is
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of 6 is
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of 8 is
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6 is
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of 8 is
- $\frac{2}{3}$ of 6 is
- $\frac{3}{5}$ of 5 is
- $\frac{1}{5}$ of 10 is
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of 9 is

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

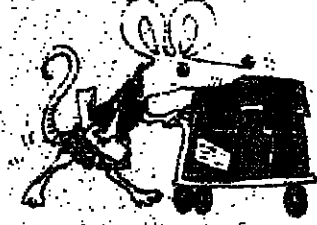
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Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

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To avoid delayed greetings please send within a week before the special date

What's grey, has a trunk and four legs?

A mouse going on holiday!



Indian director comes a step closer to goal

INDIAN film director Moeen Amjad believed he had reached his goal by launching his first movie *Mil Gayee Manzil Mujhe*. After filming a best part of the film, and spending more than Rs. 120,000, the leading lady Parveen Babi "vanished".

Babi, who had schizophrenia, did not return. Amjad's film lay in the cans. But his determination did not die. He restarted the movie with another heroine, Moon Moon Sen, and the film was released last year. Mithun Chakraborty played the male lead. For Amjad, it was one step ahead for going solo.

Amjad, who went solo in recent years, is no newcomer in the show biz world. He has been in the glamour biz for two decades, learning the technicalities of filmmaking from such names as Kamal Amrohi and Nasir Hussain. Influenced by his mentor Hussain, Amjad has a weakness for "romantic subjects."

The young director has two ambitious ventures in the pipeline. Currently he is on a private visit to Kuwait to seek backers for his films.

Working as an assistant director with Nasir Hussain, Amjad was involved in every aspect of film making. "My association with them gave me the experience and confidence, to become a fully-fledged director," he said in an interview. He was associated with such successful films as *Yaadon Ki Baraat*, *Teesri Manzil*, *Hum Kis Se Kum Nahin*, and others.

Like most filmmakers and directors, Amjad feels strongly about the advent of video and what it has done to the practice of seeing movies in theatres. "There is no rapport; the

in the story as they could when the lights dimmed in the cinema," he said. And adds confidently: "People will go back to the cinema."

The cost of filmmaking has skyrocketed, particularly the price of raw film. And due to the onslaught of video, filmmakers are feeling the pinch. But he decries industry pundits' claims of the Bombay film industry's imminent collapse.

"We are going through a crisis; but we are a resilient lot and we will survive," he said.

Amjad has survived the ups and downs of filmmaking but the show goes on for the director, he is bent on proving his mettle. Did Amjad find the formula for success?

"If there was a success formula, we'd all be making hits; there's no hard and fast rule; sometimes people praise a film like *Maine Pyar Kiya*, and film with a star-cast like *Ganga Jamuna Saraswati* bombs."

But why do people make films like *Ganga*...

"Filmmakers are wary of experimenting; they don't want to take risks, mainly because if they did the financier won't buy the film and if the filmmaker finds the money to make a different kind of film, it will lie in the cans," he explained.

So, filmmakers use gimmicks — like a mixture of songs, dance, romance, action and vendetta. Amjad claims he wants to be different.

The two projects Amjad has in mind deal with sentimental and emotional subjects. "They will be small budget films with fresh faces," he said.

And if the going is good, they'll be released soon.

(FA)



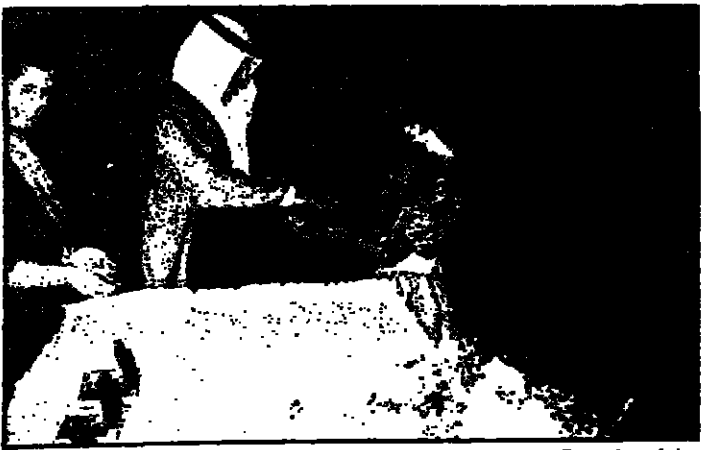
Moeen Amjad and Mrs Amjad with Mithun (right) on the sets of his first film, *Mil Gayee Manzil Mujhe*



Amjad directing Moon Moon Sen



Some of the children who exhibited their paintings and sketches.



Dr Omar presents a prize to one of the winners, Amal Al Ghanim of the NCCAL is also seen.



Iraqi diplomat Hamed Al Mulla.

Arab children awarded

The winners of the Arab Children's Drawing competition received their prizes at a colourful ceremony held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. Sixty-nine Arab children participated in the exhibition.

Director of the National Council of Art, Culture and Letters Dr Farouk Al Omar said he was impressed by the range of subjects chosen by the children. He said: "Each drawing expressed love, innocence and honesty."

The prizes distribution took place at a ceremony attended by the ambassadors of several Gulf and Arab states.



Bahrain's Ambassador to Kuwait Essa M. Al Jamea received the prizes on behalf of Bahraini children who won in the competition. Above: Al Jamea receiving the prize from Dr Omar.

WHAT'S ON

Arts

Boushahri Gallery
A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salamiya Bldg. Salem Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jamea are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

IAC One-Act Play Contest

May 30: Madhu and Friends present: *Kriti Nanni*; Malayalam; Stage Index perform: *Shanti Parvam*, Malayalam.

May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's *Mazich Songbad*; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform *Chanteeran and His Clan*; Malayalam. Nayya Bharati present *Kafan* (Shroud); Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

All performances at IAC, Funatees: 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Social

PAC membership

THE Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) have launched a membership campaign. All Pakistanis are welcome. Membership forms available from PAC. For details contact A S Qureshi (5716388); A S Ghazali (5631815); N Khan (4843578); Z Butt (2414570).

June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme: Regency Palace Hotel; 8 pm sharp; doors open: 6 pm; close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

Kuwait Players AGM
JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting: 8 pm, Al Foz, Messilah Beach Hotel.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
10.40 Good Morning
9.50 Kaola: cartoons
10.10 News Summary
10.15 World News via Satellite (repeat)
10.30 Wajhat Nazar: Arabic serial; part 5
11.25 Good Morning: variety
12.00 Archive Zaman: documentary
12.30 News summary
12.35 Closedown

Evening

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.30 Sally: cartoon serial
5.00 Tomorrow's World: documentary
6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial; ep. 13
7.00 Songs
7.25 "Haroos": cultural programme
8.15 Songs
8.30 Good Evening: magazine show
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Muzzakarati Zawj: Arabic serial
10.30 Al Naar Wal Firqa: Arabic Serial, featuring Talhat Hamdi, Samir Sami, Abdul Hadi Al Sabagh
12.15 News Summary
12.20 World News via Satellite
12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Lone Ranger
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: A variety



Simone stars in Muzzakarati Zawj, KTV1.

show for young viewers from Disney. Quran and Science: Various aspects of science and their reference in the Quran are examined in this programme.

7.30 Kate and Allie: on the sets. Comedy.

8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: Prepared by the Ministry of Interior, presented by Ali Noor. Focus on local laws.

8.50 Bordertown: "Slave". This serial continues with the story of a small town. Tonight, a businessman visits a slave farm.

9.15 Horizon: "Catch A Falling Star". A Survey of astronomy in Cambridge, Oxford

and Europe. Documentary

10.00 Murphy Brown: "Soul Man". Murphy plans to visit a male-only club. Comedy.

10.30 Wolf: Tony's friend has been murdered and the former policeman is charged with the crime. Is he innocent. Action.

11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Sports Channel

4.55 Handball match: local, live broadcast.

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Ubbahah (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi
Al Sahmiya
Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil
Al Hama
Hanafi Al Ubbahah (Arabic)

Drive-In
Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Al Firdous
Qatil (Hindi)
Starring: Aditya Pancholi, Sangeeta Bhatnagar, Fahad Open Air
Commando (Hindi)
Al Fahad
Mog Busters

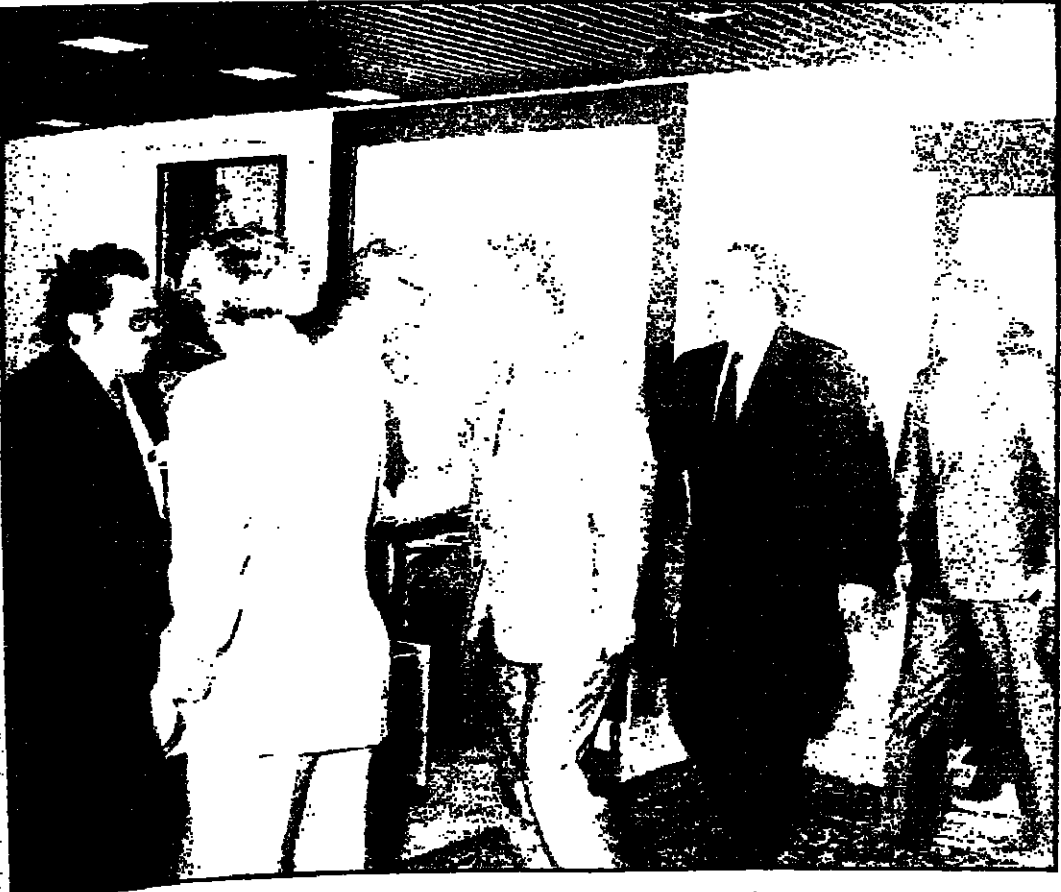
Al Jahra
Bara Bhai (Bengali)
Granada
Carnival (Malayalam)
Sataibikhat
Eat The Rich
Al Jeeb
Takkar (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)



The 'Team of five' all set to go to the AlphaGraphics Printshop of the Future headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The team will attend an intensive two month practical training programme which will prepare them to open the Middle East's first electronic graphic printshop in Bahrain. Above: (Standing) Maitam Ali Salman, (centre) Arthur D'Souza, Mohammed Abdul Kader Ahmed. (Sitting), Right: Hadi Al Alawi, Cynthia Herbert, Hussain Al Alawi.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.17 am
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.41
Isha	8.11



Kuwait's Foreign Ministry hosted a reception to say goodbye to outgoing Indonesian Ambassador Djameluddin Joeda, who is leaving Kuwait shortly. Picture shows Joeda (right) receiving some of the ambassadors who attended the farewell reception.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

FOR RENT
JABRIYA: Villa, ground floor, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 saloon, 1 dining room, 1 large reception, kitchen.
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Braves outclass Phillies

PHILADELPHIA, May 28. (AP) John Smoltz was two outs away from Atlanta's first no-hitter in 17 years when Len Dykstra doubled to right field as the Braves beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-1 in an National League baseball game yesterday.

After Ricky Jordan struck out leading off the ninth, Dykstra ripped a 1-0 pitch down the line. One out later, Von Hayes singled to right to spoil the shutout bid. Smoltz got Rod Booker on to end the game and finished with a two-hitter.

Smoltz entered the game having allowed 49 hits and 31 runs in 46 innings for a 3.48 earned-run average.

The last Atlanta pitcher to toss a no-hitter was Phil Niekro on Aug. 5, 1973 against San Diego.

Pirates 5, Giants 2
Don Slaught and Barry Bonds homered in Pittsburgh's three-run fifth inning, and Neal Heaton improved to 8-1 as the Pirates beat San Francisco.

Andy Van Slyke went 3-for-4 and hit a solo homer in the seventh inning for Pittsburgh's fourth run as former Pirate Rick Reuschel (2-6) remained winless against Pittsburgh since August 1980.

The Pirates, who won twice in the three-game series after losing eight of their previous 10, are 5-1 against the Giants this season.

Padres 8, Mets 4
Joe Carter ended a slump with a homer and four RBIs and Phil Stephenson hit a three-run triple in San Diego's six-run eighth inning, boosting the Padres to a brawl-marred victory over New York.

Carter, who entered the game with only one hit in his previous 19 at-bats, also had two singles as the Padres dropped Dwight Gooden to 3-4.

Ed Whitson (4-3) worked seven innings for San Diego, giving up six hits and two runs.

In the bottom of the eighth, Padres reliever Greg Harris hit Kevin Elster in the back with a pitch, touching off a bench-clearing brawl. Elster charged the mound as the benches and bullpens of both teams emptied onto the field. Elster was ejected.

Expos 5, Reds 3

Andres Galarraga and Tim Lincecum homered as Montreal rallied to beat Cincinnati. The Reds, who blew a 3-0 lead, were attempting to sweep a four-game series in Montreal for the first time since the Expos entered the League in 1969.

The game was only the second in 25 this season that the Reds have lost after scoring first.

Galarraga's homer, his fourth, came against Tim Lincecum (1-2) in the fifth inning and broke a 3-3 tie after Birtas had bailed Reds starter Jose Rijo out of bases-loaded jam in the fourth.

Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Chicago	10	6	.625
Oakland	6	6	.500
Minnesota	6	6	.500
Kansas City	9	9	.500
Baltimore	7	7	.500
California	10	10	.500
Toronto	11	11	.500
Houston	12	12	.500
San Diego	11	11	.500
Pittsburgh	10	10	.500
Los Angeles	8	8	.500
Atlanta	12	12	.500

Rahal second, Fittipaldi third

Luyendyk wins Indy 500



Arie Luyendyk drinks the traditional bottle of milk after his victory. (Reuter wirephoto)



Finland's Tero Palmroth sits in his car as he makes a pit stop during the Indy 500. (Reuter wirephoto)

INDIANAPOLIS, May 28. (UPI) Dutchman Arie Luyendyk won the 74th running of the Indianapolis 500 yesterday, beating 1986 winner Bobby Rahal to the finish line in the fastest Indy 500 ever.

Driving a Lola-Chevrolet, Luyendyk's average speed of 185.984 mph (299.312 kph) topped Rahal's 1986 record of 170.722 mph (274.750 kph) and made Luyendyk the first driver to earn his first Indy car win at Indianapolis since Graham Hill in 1962. He completed the 200-lap race in 2 hours 41 minutes and 18.248 seconds.

Rahal finished second, 10.7 seconds behind in a Lola-Chevrolet, followed by defending champion and pole-sitter Emerson Fittipaldi in a Penske-Chevrolet. In fourth place, one lap down was Al Unser Jr. in a Lola-Chevrolet, followed by three-time winner Rick Mears, four-time champ A.J. Foyt, Scott Brayton, rookie Eddie Cheever, Kevin Cogan and rookie Scott Goodyear.

The best previous finish for Luyendyk, racing in the 76th Indy car race of his career, was a second in 1983 at Portland, and his best previous finish at Indianapolis came in his rookie year of 1985 when he finished seventh.

Luyendyk, 36, who started on the outside of the front row, ran with the leaders all day and moved into first place when he passed Rahal low in turn three with 32 laps remaining with Rahal in the pits. Luyendyk made a pit stop five laps later and kept his lead. He had led previously on laps 92 and 94.

With 50 miles (80.46 km), Luyendyk held a 1.1 second lead over Rahal and increased the margin to 4.5 seconds in the next three laps. With 12 laps to go, his lead was 8.5 seconds and with 25 miles (40.23 km) left he pushed the advantage to 11 seconds.

At that point, the only suspense was whether Luyendyk would make it to the finish without re-fuelling, but he made it easily.

Luyendyk's purse will not be announced until this evening. Fittipaldi, who won last year, earned more than \$1 million.

For most of the race, it looked like Fittipaldi, who qualified at a

record 225.301 mph (362.586 kph), would defend his title.

At the halfway point of the race, Fittipaldi was more than 15 seconds ahead of Unser Jr. and Rahal, with Luyendyk running fourth. Unser Jr. slowed shortly after that, falling a lap behind when he went into the pits on lap 115.

After a series of pit stops allowed Rahal and Luyendyk to lead briefly, Fittipaldi took the lead back on lap 123 and had a comfortable lead on Rahal and Luyendyk. Unser Jr. was in fourth place but back on the lead lap.

Track conditions were taking a toll on tyres, with many drivers, including Fittipaldi, experiencing blisters on their right rear tyres. Fittipaldi stopped for fuel and tyres on lap 135, giving the lead to Rahal.

A spin by John Andretti on lap 140 brought on a caution period that allowed Rahal to pit and hold the lead. Luyendyk was second, Fittipaldi third and Unser Jr. fourth, the only cars on the lead lap.

Rahal led when the caution period ended on lap 145. Last year's runner-up, Unser Jr., who had been plagued by earlier problems, began to move on the leader. Fittipaldi fell behind on an unscheduled pit stop on lap 153 because of tyre problems, and Rahal passed him to leave just three cars on the lead lap: Rahal, Luyendyk and Unser Jr.

Unser Jr.'s pit stop on lap 158 left Rahal and Luyendyk alone on the lead lap and the Dutchman, bidding for his first-ever Indy car victory, started to reel in the two-time Indy car champion.

At that point, Luyendyk turned in a 222-mph (357.274-kph) lap, while Rahal was running in the 217-mph (349.227-kph) range. The move Luyendyk made to get around Rahal was a smooth, clean one.

Danny Sullivan hit the wall on lap 20 to draw the day's first yellow flag. Sullivan, the 1985 winner, had a wheel bearing explode on the right rear wheel, spun and hit the wall between turns one and two. The Roger Penske driver was taken to Methodist Hospital for tests and released.

Elliott runs fast mile

LONDON, May 28. (UPI) Britain's 1,500 metres Olympic silver medalist Peter Elliott maintained his impressive early-season form by running the fastest one mile in the world this season at Battersea Park yesterday.

The 27-year-old Commonwealth Games champion, having his first race as a full-time athlete after giving up his part-time job in a steel works, outpaced a quality field to clock 3 minutes 51.80 seconds.

Seven other men broke the four-minute barrier in the first of this year's General Portfolio Grand Prix Series, but it was Elliott who stole the show and fired a warning to the rest of the world's top middle distance runners.

He followed up a fast 800 metres win in Santander, Spain, and a Yorkshire

Championship 1,500 metres victory, with a decisive burst 500 yards out which took him clear of European bronze medalist Tony Morrell (3:32.82) and United Kingdom champion Steve Crabb (3:33.32).

"It was encouraging to run so fast so early and in such a good quality field," Elliott said. "I honestly didn't think I had gone that fast. I would have settled for a win in somewhere around 3:55."

"Everyone seems to be thinking and suggesting I'm peaking too early, but I know what I am doing."

Now Elliott is looking to capture the European title in Yugoslavia in September and plans world record attempts at 1,500 metres and one mile during this summer's Grand Prix programme.



Peter Elliott

Strijbos in hospital with concussion

DALECIN, Czechoslovakia. (Reuter) Dutchman Dave Strijbos was taken to hospital suffering from concussion and broken ribs after crashing during the Czechoslovak 2500cc Motorcross Grand Prix yesterday, the Ceteke news agency reported.

Strijbos, who was unconscious for some time after his fall in which no other rider was involved, was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Nove Mesto Na Morave.

The incident happened after four laps of the second race, which was abandoned. International Motorcycling Federation rules do not allow a restart after the completion of one lap, and no points were awarded.

Strijbos, on a Kawasaki, had won the first race to inflict only the second defeat of the year on runaway championship leader Alessandro Puzar of Italy, who leads the second-placed Dutchman by 67 points.

Injuries also hit other championship contenders, including Italian Michele Fantoni, fourth in the standings, who did not take part in the second race due to an eye injury.

Sherbo takes 3 golds

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, May 28. (Reuter) Soviet newcomer Vitaly Sherbo claimed three gold medals on the final day of the European Gymnastics Championships yesterday, cheekily upstaging the overall victory of compatriot Valentin Mogilya.

Competing in his first European Championships, 18-year-old Sherbo easily clinched the vault, where he had led after Saturday's overall event, and came from behind to win the high bar and floor exercise.

But Mogilya, who won the overall championship on Saturday, held his lead on the pommel horse to retain the title he won in Stockholm last year.

Mogilya also tied for the parallel bars gold with Daniel Giubellini, who delighted the home crowd with Switzerland's first European title in 21 years. Another Swiss, Rene Fluess, claimed silver in the high bar.

Sergei Kharkov, the third member of the Soviet team who had been hotly fancied for at least one gold, had to be content with a silver in the floor exercise and bronze on the pommel horse.

There was consolation for some less fancied countries as Alojz Kolman, with bronze on the high bar, won Yugoslavia their first European medal since 1959. Neil Thomas' bronze in the vault was Britain's first medal for 33 years.



Sherbo performs on the pommel horse. (Reuter wirephoto)

Theakston wins prologue

PENZANCE, England, May 28. (AP) Cayan Theakston overcame a late start to win the prologue of the 16-day Milk Race cycling event by more than five seconds yesterday, beating fellow Briton Joey McLoughlin.

Theakston, who missed the 1989 cycling season because of a calf injury, finished the 5.4 mile (8.7 kilometre) time trial in 12 minutes, 1.7 seconds.

The Briton, who competes for the Tulip Computers Team of Belgium, was two seconds late starting and his foot slipped from a pedal as he left the starting ramp. But he had the fastest time by the halfway mark and maintained his quick pace until the end.

McLoughlin, the 1986 Milk Race winner, was second in 12:07.1.

Gonzales stable after being shot

HOUSTON, Texas, May 28. (AP) David Gonzales of Houston, the World Boxing Council's sixth-ranked lightweight, was in stable condition yesterday after being shot in the back outside a lounge, authorities said.

Gonzales, whose record is 23-1-1, was to fight Darryl Tyson of Fort Worth on June 11 for the North American Boxing Federation championship. Tyson is ranked fourth in the world by the World Boxing Council.

Police said Gonzales and an unidentified man fled after a companion, Miguel Angel Martinez, 25, was shot and killed outside the lounge about 1:30 am Saturday (0530 GMT). Gonzales was shot in the back and the other man was shot at, but not injured, officials said.

Gonzales was taken to Ben Taub Hospital following the shooting.

The three apparently had walked to the parking lot in back of the club, where two men confronted them, police said. One placed a small handgun on Martinez's chest and fired. Then the two left in a small white Ford.

Police said a pool game a week ago between some of the men at the same lounge triggered the dispute. Police said Martinez was not at the pool game.

In 1988, lightweight Rico Velasquez died after being stopped in the eighth round of a fight for the California lightweight title against Gonzales, who then lived in San Jose. Velasquez never regained consciousness after being knocked out in the eighth round.

Steinlager II to be sold

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, May 28. (AP) Steinlager II, which this week won the Whitbread Round-the-World yacht race, is expected to be sold to an Italian buyer for over \$2 million, the New Zealand Press Association reported yesterday.

The red-hulled maxi ketch, skippered by Peter Blake, won all six legs of the race. Steinlager challenge manager Martyn Ford said only paperwork remained to complete the sale.

The boat was scheduled to leave Southampton, where the race concluded, late yesterday. It will be transported to St Katherine's dock in London, where it will stay until next month's award ceremony.

"Regardless of Steinlager's sale, the crew will receive a bonus I consider exceptionally generous," Ford said.

Fisher and Paykel, the New Zealand yacht which finished second in the race, was also recently sold to an Italian buyer for an undisclosed amount.

No further details on the sale were immediately available.

Senna, Berger keep McLaren on top



Senna raises his trophy. (Reuter wirephoto)

MONTE CARLO, May 28. (Reuter) Ayrton Senna and his McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger proved yesterday that reliability remains the most valuable but elusive quality in Formula One motor racing as they finished first and third in the Monaco Grand Prix.

Their joint success established them in first and second positions in the drivers' championship and gave McLaren a 20-point lead over Williams in the constructors' championship. Ferrari are third a further three points back.

Senna's victory, the 22nd of his career and his third in four years on the punishing Monte Carlo street circuit, proved his motivation remains high and also showed that McLaren are still the dominant team despite the recent triumphs of Ferrari and Williams in Brazil and San Marino.

McLaren were the only team which managed to get two cars to finish among the six still running at the end of the 78-lap race and the failures of their main rivals Ferrari, Benetton and Williams suggest they have some way to go before they can realistically challenge McLaren for the title.

Both Ferraris were forced to retire with electronic failures related to the team's semi-automatic gearbox, the two Benetons suffered a blown engine and a disqualification and Williams produced one finisher — Thierry Boutsen in fourth place — while a misfire in his Renault engine accounted for Riccardo Patrese.

After suggestions that their ascendancy in performance was on the wane this season, it was a triumphant return to form for the McLaren team, particularly as Berger was forced to drive the team's spare car, set up for Senna, after colliding with Prost on the first lap of the original race.

The race was halted and re-started and McLaren team manager Ron Dennis was full of praise for both of his drivers' efforts afterwards.

"We ran a tactical race," he said. "But Ayrton was in full command throughout. Gerhard had to switch to the spare car which was set up for Ayrton and we were able to make only a few changes before he took over. Under the difficult circumstances I think Gerhard put in a superb performance."

The only reason McLaren were not able to repeat the dominant one-two finish they achieved in 1989 was an equally excellent bullish drive by Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Tyrrell-Ford.

Alesi, driving in a Monaco Grand Prix for the first time, finished second for the second time in four races this season and proved his own street-fighting prowess.

"I feel very happy about this result especially because it is in Monaco," he said. "This may be my first race here, but I have been coming for years to watch from the sidelines."



West German GP

American Kevin Schwantz in action on his way to victory in the West German motorcycle Grand Prix in Nuerburg on Sunday (Reuter wirephoto)

Murray announces 1992 America's Cup bid

SYDNEY, May 28. (Reuters): Australian yachtsman Iain Murray today announced a last-minute challenge for the 1992 America's Cup.

The challenge led by Murray, skipper of Kookaburra III in the 1986-7 America's Cup, was launched in an unfinished museum serving as the clubhouse for Sydney's new Darling Harbour Yacht Club, which was created especially for the Cup bid.

Murray looked ill at ease and was tight on details as he explained to journalists how he planned to mount his challenge in the yachting series off San Diego in May, 1992.

"My decision to pursue this means I am very confident that we can put forward a very competent challenge," Murray said. "The challenge has developed rapidly in the last two weeks

and we have a very new yacht club."

Murray, sitting in the echoing entry hall of the National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour, was often drowned out by the drills of workmen who are also struggling to meet a deadline. A newly painted sign "Darling Harbour Yacht Club" was nailed to the door of the museum.

Murray said he would need 15 million dollars (\$11.25 million) over the next two

years. He said he had already secured sufficient funds for his present needs and indicated he would rely partly on public subscriptions for his finances.

"Having established the new Darling Harbour Yacht Club's entry, the next step will be to attract sponsorships and the support of the Australian public, which is essential to this challenge," said an accompanying press release.

Hockey

Cosmos edge Unity for finals

RESORTING to defensive tactics, Cosmos clung on to a slender first-half goal advantage in dethroning last year's champions Unity, in the semifinals of the Champions Trophy at the Ahmadji Grounds on Friday.

A defensive lapse by Unity's Ashraf, in the form of an incorrect clearance, saw the ball travel to the unmarked Tommy whose crisp shot was again deflected by Ashraf in to the Unity goal, catching goalkeeper Tony unaware.

Though Unity enjoyed most of the possession of the ball, they could not co-ordinate any of their moves. On the other hand, the Cosmos' defence should be applauded for staunchly defending their citadel, and time and again foiling the Unity moves.

Cosmos, left-half Rosario was outstanding in the midfield. His display of offensive and defensive tactics was a treat to watch, and though he generated some good moves he could not get the required support to score.

Midway through the second half, Unity's captain Afro Lopez picked up the ball in his half, dribbled past an array of Cosmos' defenders and ended up with a penalty corner which was wasted.

Unity kept on pressing for the equaliser but in vain as Cosmos backed up their defence and defended bravely to emerge victorious by a solitary goal. Cosmos meet Flying Arrows in the finals to be scheduled at a later date.

Game scheduled for Friday: 4.30 pm Sharma Trophy finals, Unity vs Cosmos.

Six players still missing

ANKARA, May 28. (Reuters): Six foreign handball players and a Turk were missing believed drowned after their boat capsized yesterday. Anatolian news agency said today.

Three Algerian, two Soviet Azerbaijani and an Iraqi athlete heading for a picnic on the shores of the Bosphorus after an international handball tournament in Istanbul were believed to have died, it quoted Communications Ministry undersecretary Ertan Yulek as saying.

One Algerian player died in hospital of head injuries and 10 people were slightly injured in the accident but most of the passengers were rescued by fishing boats or swam ashore.

Istanbul public prosecutor Orhan Zeybek had said yesterday that all 65 passengers had been accounted for.

Coast guard vessels and divers searched for bodies today about 150 metres off Istanbul's Sarayburnu shore.

Suns burn Trail Blazers

Johnson scores 28 points



Suns' Kurt Rambis (left) has his shot blocked by Trail Blazers' Wayne Cooper. (Reuters wirephoto)

PHOENIX, May 28. (AP): Kevin Johnson had 28 points and 17 assists and Phoenix's bench outscored Portland's 31-10 as the Suns beat the Trail Blazers 119-107 yesterday, tying their Western Conference championship series 2-2.

Game 5 in the best-of-7 series is tomorrow night at Portland's Memorial Coliseum, where the Suns have lost 19 in a row since April 26, 1984. In game 2 at Portland, Phoenix blew a 22-point lead.

Phoenix is trying to become only the fifth team in NBA history to come back from a 2-0 deficit and win a seven-game playoff series. Portland was the last team to do it, against Philadelphia when the Trail Blazers won their only NBA title in 1977.

Tom Chambers scored 27 points for Phoenix, while Jerome Kersey paced Portland with 29 points — matching his career playoff high set in game 2 — and Terry Porter had 21.

Clyde Drexler, who picked up his fifth personal foul with 4:07 left in the third period, finished with 15 points. He had 20 points in each of the Trail Blazers' first

two victories.

Chambers scored 18 first-half points and Phoenix closed out the second period with an 11-3 run for a 56-50 lead.

Johnson hit two jumpers and four free throws in a 3:25 span to put the Suns up 81-73 with 2:06 remaining in the third quarter.

Portland missed eight of its 12 free throws in the period and trailed 89-76 entering the fourth quarter.

Jeff Hornacek's 3-point goal with 7:25 to play capped an 11-3 spurt for a 100-81 bulge, the Suns' largest of the game.

The Trail Blazers, trailing 103-86 with 5:25 left, closed to 111-101 on Kersey's steal and stuff with 3:01 remaining.

But Chambers hit a jumper 16 seconds later and Johnson made three jumpers down the stretch to seal the victory.

Dan Majerle added 18 points, Hornacek 16 and Mark West 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns.

Chambers made 10 of his 17 field goals while Johnson, who had 17 second-half points, hit 12 points and combined with Majerle for the Suns' lopsided advantage in scoring off the bench.

Morris hits Notts for 103

LONDON, May 28. (Reuters): John Morris scored his third first-class century in five innings to earn Derbyshire a 52-run first innings lead against neighbours Nottinghamshire in a top-of-the-table English County Championship cricket match yesterday.

Morris batted with rare authority on a pitch which offered plenty of help to the quicker bowlers as he compiled 103 in 150 minutes to help Derbyshire, a point behind leaders Nottinghamshire, reach 274.

Former England batsman Chris Broad hit a half century to lift Nottinghamshire to 143 for four in their second innings to give them a 91-run lead with a day remaining.

Temper flared during two incidents in the final session of the match, the only championship game being played yesterday.

There were angry exchanges between Derbyshire fielders and batsman Derek Randall when an umpire rejected appeals for a catch, and Broad made a gesture to the jeering Derby crowd after becoming visibly upset at being given out leg before wicket.

In the one-day Sunday League competition, brothers Chris and Graham Cowdrey put Kent top of the table with an unbeaten 115-run fourth wicket stand against Northamptonshire.

Graham Cowdrey scored 70



John Morris

and Chris 45 to help Kent reach 287 for three, three runs short of their best score in the 40-over competition.

Former England player Chris Cowdrey then took four wickets for 57 as Northamptonshire were dismissed for 232 in their ninth successive defeat in all competitions this season.

Middlesex moved into joint second place with a seven-wicket win over Gloucestershire at Lord's thanks to 88 from Mark Ramprakash and a half century from West Indian Desmond Haynes which saw them overhaul the 201-run target with 14 balls spare.

Lancashire, last season's League champions, joined Middlesex in second place with a four-wicket victory over



Chris Broad

Glamorgan for whom Matthew Maynard (100) and West Indies captain Viv Richards (77) shared a 143-run partnership.

Standings

Sunday League cricket table after the latest round of matches (tablets under played, won, lost, tie, no result, points):

Kent	6	5	1	0	0	20
Derbyshire	5	4	1	0	0	16
Lancashire	5	4	1	0	0	16
Middlesex	5	4	1	0	0	16
Notts	5	3	2	0	0	12
Warwickshire	4	3	1	0	0	12
Gloucester	4	3	1	0	0	12
Gloucestershire	4	2	2	0	0	8
Somerset	4	2	2	0	0	8
Sussex	4	2	2	0	0	8
Worcestershire	4	2	2	0	0	8
Leicestershire	4	1	3	0	0	4
Northants	4	1	3	0	0	4
Yorkshire	4	1	3	0	0	4
Essex	3	2	1	0	0	4
Surrey	3	0	3	0	0	0

Crowe makes his mark, Kiwis declare

HOVE, England, May 28. (Reuters): Martin Crowe literally made his mark on the scoreboard yesterday as New Zealand declared 70 runs behind Sussex on the second day of their three-day cricket match.

Crowe hit a delivery from leg-spinner Ian Salisbury with such force that as the ball flew for six it

crashed into his own score indicator and dislodged one of the figures.

The New Zealand vice-captain continued his hard-hitting form to notch 65 off 61 balls, including 11 fours.

The injury-hit visitors, confidently chasing Sussex's splendid first innings score of 300 for

four declared, settled in mid-afternoon for a declaration on 230 for five.

Sussex were 144 for two in their second innings at the close. New Zealand, 22 for one overnight, were lifted by a second wicket stand of 114 between

nightwatchman Mark Priest, their left-arm spin bowling all-rounder, and Jeff Crowe (48).

Priest, who collected nine boundaries in making 72, could take the number six spot in next week's first Test against England at Nottingham if Ken Rutherford fails to recover his form after being hit on the head during the one-day international at the Oval on Friday.

New Zealand's main priority is to overcome a severe injury crisis involving their attack. Pace bowlers Danny Morrison and Shane Thomson are suffering abdominal and thigh strains respectively, in addition to Richard Hadlee nursing a broken bone in his right hand.

With three-day matches against Warwickshire and Derbyshire due before the Test on Thursday week, the touring team is considering calling up a second stand-in following the recruitment of paceman Chris Pringle.

New Zealand have called up Willie Watson as their second stand-in pace bowler to help them through their cricket tour injury crisis.

Watson will join the New Zealanders tomorrow and is likely

to play in the three-day match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston the following day.

"Willie will join us on a match-by-match basis," said manager Ian Taylor yesterday, the second day of the touring side's three-day game here against Sussex.

Watson played two Tests on New Zealand's 1986 tour of England but has since added only one more cap, against Australia in Perth, last November.

Scoreboard
SUSSEX first innings 300 for four declared (4.11.120 not out, A. Wells 86, N. Latham 64)
NEW ZEALAND first innings overnight 22 for one
J. Crowe b Salisbury 48
M. Priest c Morrison b Donelan 72
M. Crowe c Donelan b Babbington 65
J. Wright not out 10
S. Thomson not out 3
Extras (b-3 lb-1 nb-2) 6
Total (for five wickets, declared) 230
Fall of wickets: 1-0-2-114-3-139 4-195-223
Did not bat: J. Bracewell, A. Parore, C. Pringle, D. Morrison

Bowling: Donelan 14-2-56-1, Bunting 14-3-42-1, C. Wells 5-1-22-0, Babbington 9-0-36-1, Salisbury 16-2-55-1, Donelan 9-3-15-1.

SUSSEX second innings
N. Latham c Parore b Pringle 40
J. Hall run out 40
T. Dodemaide not out 52
C. Wells not out 45
Extras (lb-1) 1
Total (for two wickets) 144

Fall of wickets: 1-12-2-82
Bowling (to date): Pringle 13-4-37-1, Bracewell 20-2-70-0, M. Crowe 3-2-4-0, Priest 11-3-32-0

Sweden rout Finland in Cup warmup

STOCKHOLM, May 28. (Reuters): Midfielder Anders Limpar scored one goal and laid on three more as Sweden hammered Finland 6-0 in a dazzling dress rehearsal for the World Cup soccer finals yesterday.

Sweden, leading 1-0 at half-time, destroyed the Finns with four goals in a seven-minute burst early in the second half in their final warm-up game before meeting Brazil in their first World Cup clash.

Limpar, who plays for Cremonese in Italy, set up Benfica striker Mats Magnusson for the first goal in the fourth minute, and opened the floodgates when he scored in the 57th.

He created the openings for striker Tomas Brodin to score twice, in the 59th and 61st minutes, and was also involved in the build-up which led to a penalty, converted by Ajax defender Peter Larsson in the 64th.

Benfica midfielder Jonas Thern, playing his first international this year after a three-month groin injury, completed the rout 10 minutes later.

Sweden manager Olof Nordin, whose side's opening World Cup match is in Turin on June 10, could not hide his satisfaction.

"Limpar was brilliant today, and the whole team played in a very relaxed manner and completely according to my tactical guidelines," said Nordin.

He said he was particularly pleased about the appetite of his strikers who had suffered a long drought broken only when Brodin struck in his national debut last month in a 4-2 victory over Wales.

"Everything looks fine. We have no special worries, no special details to polish," said Nordin.

Teams:
Sweden — Thomas Ravelli; Roland Nilsson (Niclas Nyhnen, 63rd), Peter Larsson, Roger Ljung, Stefan Schwarz, Anders Ingesson (Glenn Stromberg, 72nd), Joakim Nilsson; Tomas Brodin (Johnny Ekstrom, 67th), Mats Magnusson (Stefan Pettersson, 67th).

Finland — Kari Laukkanen; Jouka Vuorela, Hannu Jantti (Markku Kanerva, 35th), Erik Holmgren, Ari Heikkinen, Erikka Petaja, Kimmo Tarkkio, Anders Roth (Tommi Paavola, 58th), Pasi Tuorilahti; Ari Hjelme, Mika-Matti Paatelainen.

South Korea name World Cup squad

SEOUL, May 28. (Reuters): South Korea today named its squad of 22 players for the World Cup soccer finals in Italy, which start next month.

The team is a mixture of seasoned professionals, including striker Choi Soon-Ho and veteran captain Chung Yong-Hwan who led the South Korean side during the 1986 finals in Mexico, and a number of promising youngsters.

Team coach Lee Hoe-Taik told reporters last week the squad would be defense-oriented, using a 4-4-2 playing formations, and would aim for quick

counter attacks.

Lee dropped Song Young-Rok, a 29-year-old defender, in favour of Cho Min-Kook, a tough stopper and good header who recovered recently from a leg injury.

South Korea, the first Asian nation to qualify for two successive World Cup finals, is generally regarded as much weaker than its Group E rivals Belgium, Spain and Uruguay.

The team is due to leave for Italy on June 5.

Portuguese Cup

LISBON, May 28. (Reuters): Farense's hopes of becoming the first Second Division soccer side to win the Portuguese Cup were put back for another week after they drew 1-1 with Estrela da Amadora after extra time in the final yesterday.

Farense, the first Second Division club to reach the final since 1962, will have another chance in the replay next Sunday.



Pavarotti (left) accepts the applause of the audience. (Reuters wirephoto)

Italy honours soccer legends

MILAN, Italy, May 28. (Reuters): Soccer-mad Italy honoured the world's superstar players yesterday with a gala concert by opera singer Luciano Pavarotti just 13 days before the kick-off in the World Cup finals.

The ebullient Pavarotti, one of the world's leading tenors and also a passionate Juventus soccer fan, sang to soccer giants from eight countries which have won the World Cup, headed by the legendary Pele of three-times champion Brazil.

Also among those invited to the gala evening, televised live to 37 countries, were the captain of 1978 winners Argentina, Daniel Passarella, and his inspirational countryman Diego Maradona.

Police in Sardinia, expected flashpoint of crowd violence during next month's World Cup soccer, rehearsed yesterday their anti-hooligan tactics with riot gear and dogs at a local match.

Euphoric fans of local team Cagliari, celebrating their recent promotion into the First Division, filed into the stadium past hundreds of police.

More than 3,000 police will be drafted in to Sardinia to face English and Dutch supporters, who include Europe's most notorious hooligans, during the month-long spectacular which starts on June 8.

A paramilitary police spokesman said the display of some 20 armoured cars, dogs, and plastic riot shields did not dampen the fans' enthusiasm.

"Our rehearsal went very well, there were no problems. Everybody was good-humoured, it was one big party," he said.

Two helicopters flew above the capacity crowd of some 45,000 until shortly before the match started between Cagliari and Triestina.

Police carrying rifles patrolled the perimeter of the pitch for the entire game, a 1-1 draw. Before the kick-off, England national team manager Bobby Robson, who arrived in Cagliari with his squad on Friday, posed for photographs with the two Italian teams to cheers from the crowd.

The mayor of Florence was given a cool reception by Italy's top soccer official at the weekend after trying to play down recent violence by the city's infamous hooligans against Italian World Cup players.

"I'm not here to ask forgiveness," Mayor Giorgio Morales told Antonio Mattarese, president of Italy's Soccer Federation at a meeting team sources described yesterday as tense.



Pele (left) and Maradona at the concert. (Reuters wirephoto)



Armed policemen watch Cagliari fans during the full security rehearsal. (Reuters wirephoto)



A sharpshooter in mediaeval costume gets ready to take his turn at a festival in Gubbio, Italy, where the Brazilian World Cup squad is training. (Reuters wirephoto)



Crowe: hit 65 off 61 balls

